

65 PAGES OF SMART HOMEOWNER ADVICE

29
GREEN
PRODUCT
PICKS

This Old House

MAY 2006

REMODELER'S IDEA FILE

Kitchen Storage Solutions

- Space-saving products
- Built-in organizers
- New cabinet designs
- Counter-clearing ideas

Tips for Major
Renovations
P. 92

Plus:

PATCH WALLS SUPER SMOOTH
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O this month online

Plans for 30 Beautiful Container Gardens

We've got a container garden idea for just about anyone wanting to bring a little life into their home.



Meadow Garden Goes
You can get a whole garden in a pot on your porch, and it's easy to care for. Check out our guide to creating a meadow garden in a pot.

Outdoor Grill: Which of the following power tools do you find most interesting?



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letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

It's What's Inside That Counts

OLD HOUSES LIKE THIS ONE I LIVE IN don't come with a lot of closets or cabinets, so I've never had much storage space. And just last month I had to give up half of what I did have. It turns out that an expensive vacation wedding in a foreign country can so easily, legally count as a legitimate marriage here at the States.

So I had to plan, which meant things only got worse when the wedding gifts started to arrive. Serving trays, reserved silver bowls, these remarkable place settings designed by Walter Gropius, the founder of Bauhaus architecture. I piled up.

I piled up so fast I had to call an emergency cabinet meeting. (Get it?) Cars held up the kitchen remodel plans from ever reaching, and I used blue painter's tape to seal the shelves and boxes on the wall. It seemed good. But would there be room for all our new stuff, for our old stuff, for the case of beads? More tape on other walls, my own studs at dinner, and soon the writing was on the wall. It wasn't the number of cabinets, we agreed, but their interior efficiency. To work they had to be special.

I'll need to hold them myself, I said. That's when I got my first "cleans" as only the best thing that could happen to you" look. Cars was familiar with my project, complaints of training out a student. My project, complaints of finishing the bath at her best. My project with my brother of installing a bathroom in my son's basement, which, had you been waiting for the shower to be complete, you'd be going on your third year all day.

It's amazing, working in TCH's corner with some genius, one of which is across the kitchen array of Cabinet Science (CIS), our design where the cars and cars off to look at showrooms where we know every one of the clever drawers, doors, cabinets, and shelves in the story she produced, beginning on page 16. It's all great stuff, and I hope it inspires you to rethink the possibilities for your kitchen.

Scott O'Connell

SCOTT O'CONNELL
EDITOR

PS By the way, my favorite shower room discovery isn't visible in a photo but is worth mentioning: special kitchen-drawer racks, opened by gears so that you can't lose them. One might try to slim the drawers, it slows and slows like the trunk lid of an expensive car. Cars said it said, "Now you can't even have a fight in your own kitchen," and I thought, That's at least as important as finding room for the beans.



TCH's top-ups and clearly innovative map of future kitchen solutions to show the editor's nervousness and shared goals (CNET)

I mocked up our cabinet plan
and wondered:
How would there be room
for our new stuff, the old,
the cans of beans?



Ways to Save on Remodeling

"21 Ways to Save on Your Remodel" [March] was so thorough and, refreshingly, included the perspective of the contractor (kind of trying to save by cutting your contractor's bottom line). I'm a GC, and we do residential remodels, but I also do coaching seminars and workshops around money, mess, and communicating honestly about what's really up when it comes to remodeling your home. I teach contractors not to undercut/underearn, and I teach homeowners the value of hiring a contractor who is selling an experience, not just a product. Your article will help me offer more tips when it comes to my coaching practice. Thanks, and I love your magazine.

PERI KUDSMAIL, FRODOLO, CALIF.

Another Way to Save

We purchased a newly built house from a contractor, and those in the field know only one thing: After we moved in we kept our eyes open at the local home improvement stores and purchased paint that had been returned. This doesn't mean you can only find 5-gallon cans, and only one that color you like. We were patient and open-minded about our colors. Within a few weeks, we had enough paint to do every room in our house at a fraction of the cost. An average gallon of paint was \$20-\$40, we paid \$3-\$5. To make the deal even better, the store was willing to add color to change the last at no extra charge.

DAVE KELLER, SPENCER, MASS.

Spotting Crooked Contractors

As a remodeling contractor with 60 years in the business, there were two points that bothered me in "How to Spot a Crooked Contractor" [Award the House, March]. The first was to be wary if the contractor asks you to "write a check directly to him for products" instead of to the company supplying the items. Although the customer legally has the right to pay the

vendor directly, it is not common to do so. I have never had a customer pay a vendor directly. Their checks are made out to my company. The second problem is the suggestion that you should be suspicious if a contractor "asks you to pay for work that hasn't been done yet or for materials that haven't arrived." I would never start a project or order materials without first receiving a down payment, and my first progress payment is due at a job start. Some clients are incredibly tricky. Over the years, contractors spend about \$40,000 to have their collect money up front to cover these costs, who pays for them if things go sour? Contractors can't afford to work for free.

THOMAS HENDERSON, CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

TGA general contractor Tim Sellen replies: Contractors do need progress payments on the

corrections

"Get Sober, New York" [March]: Due to a production error in reference to the story in a Get Sober article on being a sobriety coach, we have pulled that story from the magazine. The DASH blog, which we are based at dashmag.com/articles,

work proceeds and payments for stock (such as windows or flooring) when it's added up. As long as that's specified in the contract, how you would like payments made and why, and the homeowner agrees to the terms, then there should be no problem.

Going to the Dogs

I wrote to enquire why your recent doghouse cover story [July/August 2005 and January/February 2006] that when I was asked to participate in a fund-raiser for the local humane society I went completely overlooked. The pictures [below] are of our town hall and my interpretation, "Town Howl." The doghouse I built for house two small dogs and insulated to R-35. There are doors in the back for easy cleaning. The original windows and planks were hand-carved by Jim Giehl, who also built the clock tower. The new product from a mold is polycarbonate. The entire "build



"Town Howl" replicates the Cheshire, Ontario, town hall as a doghouse for two.



and" was then completed by artisan Tamara Dunn. [To see this doghouse and other others that were auctioned off in March, visit www.townhallandhouse.com.]

TOOQ DUNDAS, ONTARIO

The editors note: Little did we know when our humble-sentiment began last summer that there were so many canine crazy carpenters out there. We think it's doggone great!

Chain Saw Tips

The Home's Notebook on chain-saw safety [March] was informative. As someone who cuts much more wood than the average homeowner, I have two additional tips. First, to help maintain chains properly, check the tip of the bar for rough spots. If there are any, simply file them smooth with your chain file. Next, to keep the saw cutting straight, dip the bar every

time you need to put on a new chain or if the chain's curved off the bar. This will help to keep the bar from heating over time and will keep your cuts straight.

DEAN KESSLER, DYE, N.M.

Clean Hush With Vintage Style

Having just returned from France, I loved "The Physics of the Flush" [March] quite a bit, especially the part about the European style toilet needing constant cleaning. But you don't need a high-tech toilet, a perfect old house option. We installed two 1.6-gallon reproductions in the recent kitchen/powder room makeover bath renovation of our 1880 Victorian to return it to its original fixture style. In addition to being fun to use for kids at all ages, the porcelain created by a 6-foot water drop makes them virtually self-cleaning.

BRAN CARL, DARTMOUTH, N.Y.

Wood Countertops

Re "Details Make the Difference" [March]: A number of photos show wood countertops in the kitchen in bathrooms, overlooking light-colored tiles. Is this a good idea? What maintenance issues does it raise?

CHERYL MESSING, CHALSTON, N.Y.

The editors reply: Wood counters do require maintenance (upkeep like wiping up spills and water as they happen, but with the right finish such as a marine spar varnish, wood and water come in harmony). After all, bathroom vanity tops are made of wood. ■

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GOOD TO KNOW

This month's title, President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening up 170 million acres of the Wild West to settlers. Price of 1/2 acre? Eighteen dollars.

This Is Not a Mother's Day Gift

THAT'S WHAT THE MAMA of this demo's driver told us when we declared it the perfect addition to Mom's tool kit. While it's true that it was designed for pros, we also think it's great for mamas, dad's, and anybody else who wants the power of a driver twice its size without the bulk. At 10.8 volts, the Bosch Lithium Pocket Driver weighs less than 2 pounds (about as much as a quart of milk), thanks to its lithium-ion battery, yet it can drill 3/8-inch spade-bit holes and drive a standard 3-inch screw, all on a single charge.

Meat for overhead work, the tool's retractable driver is easy to wield one-handed, a heretofore clunky design for quick bit changes, and a work-illumination LED shines a light when drilling in dark cabinet corners. With 60 inch-pounds of torque, the tool can handle the majority of household projects that require a driver; meaning it won't pose a hole in a brick masonry wall, but don't you spend extra time hanging shelves? We do. And so does everybody else we know, Mom excluded. The Lithium Pocket Driver costs \$130, and Bosch tools can be dealers. —MICHAEL SAWYER



The light weight means no battery charges or fully is a hammer

SPEAKING OF DRIVERS...



BEFORE BATTERIES.

The first electric power tool was a 1/2-horsepower drill invented in 1859 by William White. It had two hand-cranked levers in a circular frame that the operator leaned against the chest.



BEFORE

Japan's unpowered construction belt put on the world's biggest deep-sea drill. Built to study climate change, the drill is up side of president's nearly 4 1/2 miles beneath the ocean floor.



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A heavy showerhead can make you feel like you're building under a water leak. Not all other products can quickly seal your water bill over the edge. It's a trade-off the engineers at Delta Faucet have finally overcome with the new **ROSCOE** Technology showerhead. The sleek chrome head easily pressure-powered enough to stretch the longest hoses and runs the longest while using a measly 1.5 gallons of water per minute—about a third less than the industry standard of 2.5 gpm. A plastic "daisy" built into each of its four nozzles deflects the water just like your thumb would when placed over the end of a garden hose. The result is a pulsating stream of water droplets that mimic the warmth and feel of a higher-flow option. The **ROSCOE** is shower-head costs \$95. Visit deltafaucet.com/en/roscos.

—JENN KOSOVE

Big-House Backlash

To control development of new, outsized houses in historic neighborhoods, residents must get involved with local politics

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL years, residents of the town of Chevy Chase, Maryland, have watched its stately Cape Cod, Colonial, and Tudor Revival mansions being replaced by McMansions that are typically more than twice their size. The trend has pitted neighbor against neighbor in a battle over preservation of architectural heritage and open space and the right of property owners to do as they please with their own land.

The issue has divided the town and even led to vigilante justice. "After one new house that many people consider to be particularly ugly had gotten erected, I wrote a letter to the town asking people to not build," says Chevy Chase mayor William Haderik III, who notes that the battle is between 3,000 people and all that different from ones being waged elsewhere. One possible explanation is that houses built today are typically more than twice the size of ones built in 1910, yet few laws have restricted the size.

In Decatur, Georgia, following a city council meeting about a recent rash of "back-and-forth" and "front" houses, the city of 4,000-square-foot homes building and found that someone had spray-painted "Save Our City" on his garage wall. It was the second incident of trespassing and vandalism in as many days. Meanwhile, who demolished a 60-year-old 1,450-square-foot house, which had been condemned by the city, to build a new place large enough to accommodate his four daughters, says he feels violated. "It's your right to own and enjoy anything that you legally have in America," he says. "If you want to stop anything from being built, go try and change the rules with the city."

According to do just this, Chevy Chase residents petitioned for a temporary moratorium on new construction, a moratorium that was approved by the town council in August. Other communities in San Francisco, Denver, and Salt Lake City are among those pursuing similar measures. Such efforts, however, are often opposed by local realty groups, including the Metro-Tex Realty Association of Dallas, which unsuccessfully fought a zoning law adopted by the city council in November that limits the number of subdivisions and the height of new houses and additions to existing ones. "They overrule like this has long-term, unintended consequences that limit development, diminish potential property as income, and send a message that you don't want people to move into the city," says Fred D. Urdahl, a spokesman for Metro-Tex. While the battles rage on, one thing is becoming clear: The future of America's towns will depend on residents, developers, and city officials agreeing on how to best manage future growth without disrupting the past. —NOLAN ROSSIGUEZ



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THE TIP

Leaky Toilet Test

To find out if water is leaking from the toilet tank into the bowl, TOH plumbing and heating expert Richard Tenhew suggests adding food coloring to the water in the tank. Wait about 20 minutes without flushing to see if the dye shows up in the bowl. If it does, there's a leak.



Back Off, Bloodsuckers

Ten DIY ways to keep mosquitoes out of your yard

Summer predicts one mosquitoes, particularly the species that spread the West Nile virus, will make it round neighborhoods according to its security warning. While data on the prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases is not yet in, the late summer and autumn, we're got some low-cost and simple solutions that'll leave you with plenty of time and money to relax in the pleasures of the season. —*ASHLEIGH*

- Soak a fly proof mesh girdle that has an mosquito larva, suggests the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Replace mosquito traps with yellow bag light, which attracts and traps, and discourage them from returning.
- Replace leaky outdoor faucets to keep mosquitoes from creating puddles of standing water.
- Mow tall grasses and clear weeds, patches where the bugs lay eggs.
- Check mosquito traps and traps between your fingers and rub the oil extract on your skin for a mild repellent, says Joseph Calkins of the American Mosquito Control Association.
- This necessary or use one of the best ways to get rid of a repellent (and add flavor to your meals).
- Change water in bird baths at least twice a week to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs, according to The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
- Check for leaks, especially around your house and hot water in the ceiling, and make sure you have a good seal.
- Keep grass and shrubs well pruned to keep mosquitoes from laying eggs in your yard, says TOH landscape contractor Roger Cook. Mosquitoes love shade and low-lying plants.
- Irrigate grass and garden high early in the morning so before water can evaporate instead of pooling in your lawn.

HOW TO GET YOUR NEIGHBORS TO FIX YOUR HOUSE

TOH ONLINE EDITOR JIMMIE JOHNS
A HOME-IMPROVEMENT CO-OP

I'm handy enough, but I'm also a procrastinator. All the tools, expert advice, and good intentions in the world are never going to overcome a lack of time when it comes to taking off the hat of home-improvement jobs I've put off for this year. So when Jason and Greg, County, friends in my neighborhood, recently invited my family to join their home-project co-op, I wholeheartedly accepted.

The idea behind the co-op is that a bunch of neighbors converge on one another's home to get-it-done in a day—a project that would require a couple or an individual multiple weekends to finish. The homeowners supply materials, any tools that the team lacks, and lunch.

We've all well-matched efforts on our block, and most of us have specialties, like gardening or painting. So far, we've completed a front yard makeover with new plants and shrubs at one house, painted the kitchen, dining room, and foyer of another and washed a third. Now I've could only correct the kitchen tilework in three days down to come out of retirement, I could finally get that new garden rearing well.

Jason County right and neighbor Lisa Perry paint trim at County's house.



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One Hundred Years and Still Burning

A search for spare lightbulbs takes one couple back to the factories of Thomas Edison

THE MISQUEAMUNE-STYLE HOUSE had a glass conservatory and a hand-operated elevator attached to the one at Franklin Delano Roosevelt's home at Hyde Park, New York. But a week's dining room's plasterwork ceiling with its grid of 35 mostly glowing lightbulbs that newlyweds Cherry and Lloyd Provost found most intriguing about their new home in Glen Ridge, New Jersey.

Curious on individual plaster medallions, each bulb cast a light equivalent to about seven watts. The candlelike filaments were well suited for intimate dinners, but it was their sign of the bulb's age. It wasn't until 1956 that manufacturers introduced lights that would burn brightly without quickly burning out.

Told that the bulbs might have come from one of Thomas Edison's shuttered factories, the Provosts decided not to discard them in favor of modern incandescents. Instead, they sought replacements for the few that had been damaged. An exhaustive search, however, yielded little about the origin of the lighting installation, and no new bulbs. Then, as a local charity event, the couple bumped into a woman they remember only as Edison's daughter-in-law.

The woman, presumed to be Anna Edison, wife of the inventor's youngest son, Thomas, told them Edison bulbs did in fact continue their onlay, but asked them to forget about finding more, saying she herself had helped smother the remaining stock during the Great Depression to sell the plants. Thomas made. Local historians double the Edison were over that doctrine, and say the family was famous for outrageous magnifying. Thus so, it's those same historians, coupled with the low-temperature lightbulbs, that have allowed the bulbs to stay lit more than a hundred years after they were installed.

The lack of a matchstick mark on the bulbs had their appeal "oval parabolic" shape took Hal Wallace, associate curator of the electricity collection at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, to believe the bulbs were made specifically for the Provosts' plasterwork ceiling. Wallace says the lights are "incredibly unusual" and that he's never seen anything quite like them coming out of Edison's factories or those of other manufacturers. "These could easily be some kind of special order," he says. If the bulbs are indeed rare, Wallace speculates that they would have been made sometime between 1898 and 1902 at a plant in Harrison, just a few miles away from the Provosts' home.

The couple, now in their 70s, track the actual bulb discovery years ago, and the daughter-in-law's warning was the last word on the matter. Until now, that is, when the reopening this year of Edison's storied laboratory—now the Edison National Historic Site—after a three-year, \$12 million renovation is expected to show light on everything even remotely related to the famous inventor. And with this revelation, there's new hope for the Provosts that replacement bulbs might finally surface. —CHRISTOPHER

ABOVE AND RIGHT: Early electric bulbs were something to be proud of, and incandescents would sometimes outlast incandescent with plasters to feature prominently. LEFT: The inventor Thomas Edison in 1880s New York.



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LANDSCAPING

Made for the Shade

>> Plants that flourish where the sun doesn't much shine

BY ASHLEY NORDLE PHOTOGRAPH BY KAREN RUSSOGLAW



WHEREVER YOU HAVE A HOUSE—and trees growing near it, you have a yard that's at least partially in shade. A definite plus when you're seeking refuge during a high-noon summer barbecue. Not so much of an advantage when you're trying to create a beautiful landscape. After all, the sides of the average garden center are filled with sun-loving perennials—and just a handful of sun-of-the-shade groundcovers (think ivy and polka dot plants) to cloak shady spots. But, says The Old House landscape contractor Roger Cook, "it's not difficult to find interesting plants for shade. You just have to do your homework and find ones that are suited to your particular low-light conditions."

That means quantifying how much sun your site does get. In general, if it receives three to five hours of morning sun each day, that's considered partial shade, two hours or less each day is full shade. Soil conditions also determine which plants will thrive. If you can mold a clump of loamy soil into a ball that holds its shape, it's moist, which is just right for most shade-loving plants. If it breaks into powdery clumps, it's dry—typical under trees with extremely dense foliage and succulent roots—and you'll need to find plants that can tolerate that type of soil.

Though plenty of shade plants bear ornamental flowers, often their real beauty lies in their dramatic foliage. Leaf colors may range from chocolate to blue green to purple. Yellow gold and silver foliage can bring the hottest equivalent of sunlight and moonlight to shady planting beds.

Keep in mind, too, that you can tame the deep shade created by evergreen plants by looking up or down, overhead, or by removing some specimens altogether. Also, shade-bearing deciduous trees aren't the most year-round, so woody plants and flowering bulbs that bloom in spring are also able to take advantage of more of the sun's rays before leaves have leafed out.

On the following pages are some seeds of shade plants to try—they ought to put them low light areas into the highlight of your landscape.

"Very foliage colors and textures in groupings rather than going for a big mat of just one type of plant. That way shady areas look good even when nothing's blooming."

—ROGER COOK, OLD HOUSE LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

PARTIAL SHADE

Plants of various growth habits are well suited to morning shade and afternoon sun.

Asiatic or Pinnate (Pinnatifid) Pinnatifid pink or white flowers borne from bracts dark green or copper longer before in early summer grows 1 to 3 feet tall hardy to 30°F

Swallowtail (Dianthus barbatus) Pinnate leaves and cup-shaped flowers with heart-shaped pink or red flowers grows to 3 feet tall hardy to 30°F

Columbine (Anemone) Three-lobed trumpet-shaped blue white flowers red or yellow flowers bearing early spring clustered upright stems grows up to 3 feet tall hardy to 30°F

Corall bells (Fuchsia) Deep red purple buds lobes and a slender stem that blooms with long white pink or coral bell-shaped flowers in mid-summer early summer grows 1 to 3 feet tall hardy to 30°F

Swampy wild ginger (Platanus virginiana) Clusters of yellow flowers borne from a yellow groundcover grows 3 inches tall hardy to 30°F

Hellebore (Helleborus) A small plant with narrow leaves and narrow petals, white or pink flowers grows to 1 foot tall hardy to 30°F

Impatiens (Impatiens) A small plant with long or double flowers in red, pink, purple or white blooms summer to early fall on very green foliage grows 2 to 3 feet tall annual or biennial grows hardy to 30°F

Indian pink (Scilla maritima) Tiny star-shaped pink flowers borne from a green spring, grows 3 to 4 inches tall hardy to 30°F

Leafwort (Sedum sp.) A small plant with clusters of small blue or white flowers borne from a green spring, grows 3 to 4 inches tall hardy to 30°F

Pink mink or Lampion (Thalictrum) A small plant with green leaves and pink flowers that bear white clusters of purple or blue flowers grows to 1 foot tall in spring grows to 3 feet tall hardy to 30°F

Broomrape (Amaranthus) A small plant with small star-shaped white flowers borne from a green spring, grows to 3 inches tall hardy to 30°F

Spider lily (Lycoris radiata) Delicate long white petals emerge from a green spring, grows to 3 feet tall in spring grows to 3 feet tall hardy to 30°F

Bleeding heart (Lamproloma) A small plant with small purple flowers borne from a green spring, grows to 3 inches tall hardy to 30°F

Tuberous begonia (Begonia) A small plant with small purple flowers borne from a green spring, grows to 3 inches tall hardy to 30°F

Blue (Cyanus) A small plant with small blue flowers borne from a green spring, grows to 3 inches tall hardy to 30°F

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20

Learn by example.
To find out what grows best in your area, visit a local garden center or nursery. They'll have a list of plants that grow well in your area.

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FULL SHADE

Areas that are under tall trees or are partially shaded from evergreen plants that block out all sunlight.

Adiantum (*Maui fern*) (*Adiantum*) Small, heart-shaped, fern-like leaves with white flowers. Grows up to 12 inches tall. Hardy to 30°F.

Bleeding heart (*Lamproloma*) Small, heart-shaped leaves with white flowers. Grows up to 12 inches tall. Hardy to 30°F.

Bleeding heart (*Lamproloma*) Small, heart-shaped leaves with white flowers. Grows up to 12 inches tall. Hardy to 30°F.

Chloranthus (*Chloranthus*) Small, heart-shaped leaves with white flowers. Grows up to 12 inches tall. Hardy to 30°F.

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TIP > Try recreating the natural habitat of woodland plants. You can create the leafy forest floor by using a layer of mulch, a layer of compost, and a layer of leaf litter.

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Family Style

» There's always room for one more in this warm, open kitchen built in the space formerly occupied by the homeowners' garage.

BY JILL CONNORS PHOTOGRAPHY BY HATHAN BIRKEN



BEFORE South- and west-facing garage walls were perfect for windows that would flood the kitchen with natural light. **AFTER** The kitchen garden around the 5-foot-tall island window looked with Great Green granite. The unique porcelain-tile backsplash was aged with faux peeling, black-and-white painted linens for a vintage look.

PLANNED THE FAMILY DINNER IS ALREADY EXTINCT? Take heart: Mindy and Bill Flansburg and their four children, ages 6 to 12, gather five nights a week for an evening meal—and their Wacoita, Illinois, neighbors have a standing reservation to join them. “If they like the smell of what’s cooking, they’ll come over,” says Mindy, whose priority was a space that could comfortably sit eight to ten. To accommodate a large table and room for the kids to stretch and do homework, the family needed to open up the gallery-style kitchen that came with their Cape Cod home. With no room to expand, they chose to relocate it, making over the existing two-car garage. With no west and south-facing exterior walls, it was a challenge to become a light, bright gathering place. Kitchen designer Kathy Wilder enlarged the wall space to two adjoining walls, adding an arched opening to host prep work and homework. Mindy got the not-so-new look she was after with cream-stained cabinets and a wrapped metal backsplash that evokes 100-year-old tin ceilings. “It’s exactly the kind of family-oriented, casual-looking kitchen we wanted,” she says.

The Plan

>> Capitalize on a garage's size and location to turn it into a wide-open kitchen

What They Did

- 1 | GUTTED THE GARAGE.** The owners had two-car garage required one big adjustment—a new foundation to meet current code. A new office next door became a buffer or pantry, connecting the kitchen to the existing dining room.
- 2 | BUMPED OUT 2 FEET.** Moving out the part of the front-facing wall that had held the garage doors created a nook for family dining. Living it with windows flooded the space with natural light.
- 3 | PUT IN A LARGE CENTRAL ISLAND.** A prep sink helps create a cooking zone on one side of the 4-by-9-foot island, leaving the other side open for kids under close watch.
- 4 | CREATED A SEPARATE SNACK AREA.** Adjacent with four pull-out shelves loaded with the kids' favorite snacks is located to the left of the refrigerator, keeping traffic out of the cooking corridor.
- 5 | DOUBLE-DIP ON APPLIANCES.** Two dishwashers, two ovens and two ovens meet the demands of a household that's always studying some crowd.



TIPS FROM KITCHEN DESIGNER KATHY KOLLER

Consider water and beer when choosing a outdoor faucet. "The single faucets were placed around the island for a more living space that means drinking."

Think about traffic patterns. "When you have a family with a lot of kids, you need to think about where they'll drop their backpacks and what's located behind their entry point and the refrigerator."

Top-of-the-line appliances. "We placed a central island in the kitchen's pantry instead of at the kitchen itself, knowing it'll only get recessed over time."



- 2 | BEFORE.** The unfinished garage space was ripe for a remodel.
- AFTER.** At the heart of the new 22-by-22-foot kitchen is a 9-foot island with double seating for all four to be gathered around. The island's table is designed here where the old garage doors had been closed and opens the family place a couple of guests.



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The Details

>> New versions of vintage materials and millwork create a time-honored look.

1. **THE TIN BACKSPLASH** was inspired by ones Mandy Flaxton saw in 18th-century Dutch home magazines in the Chicago Public Library's archives. The stamped sheet metal is by W.F. Marmon, which has made fireproofs since the late 1800s. It was installed as a backsplash with medallion motif panels just above the Thermador cooktop. A decorative painter then brushed on a faux rust finish, applied metallic paint with a steel wool pad to tone down the remaining shiny sheen, and sealed it all with polyurethane for easy cleanup.

2. **BROCCOGLASS PAILS** in brushed nickel also echo those found in archival photos of kitchens from the 1800s.

3. **UNDERCABINET TRACK LIGHTING** shows halogen track light on countertop, illuminates the tin backsplash and creates a warm glow, as well as the farmhouse decorative collections.

4. **BUILT-IN STORAGE** for oversized serving pieces was inspired by old-fashioned plate racks. Plankers inside the cabinet above the microwave organize platters and trays. Open and crown moldings dress up the top of the Acorn Kitchens cabinets to give them a traditional look.

5. **TURNED WOODEN POSTS** flank the double bowl sink and the raised touch bar to give the already a farmhouse look. These dishwashers located on either side of the sink are hidden behind cabinet panels.



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LUXURIES



A Lock on Style

Entry-door hardware that says "keep out" in the nicest way possible

BY ALISON GARGENTHE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA CHARLES HATTON

THEY SAY THE LOCK ON YOUR FRONT DOOR was the only thing protecting your house. These days, it's a lot more sophisticated than that, but even in an age of motion detectors and hidden cameras, the entry lock is still your first line of defense against intruders. It's also the first point of contact for those you welcome inside, which is why a lockset makes the most important piece of home hardware you'll ever buy.

Manufacturers know it, and so today they offer a nearly limitless array of options in styles, finishes, and materials right for any occasion. Cast brass, bronze, and steel are the popular choices, able to stand up to any weather and look good doing it. But you can also find zinc, aluminum, even plastic. You can have a handle, a lever, or a thumb latch. A keyed lock or a deadbolt, a hand-rubbed oil patina or a shiny lacquer coating.

So how do you choose? Take a look at our lockset roundup on the following pages, and let this be your key.



Old-Fashioned

This Art and Crafts-style lever lock, crafted by the Craftsman Woodworkers Guild in London with a hand-rubbed oil finish, is a unique accent keeps you out of the house and keeps the lock's workings from view. \$1,395, theoldhousepaint.com

Lock Mechanisms

The most common (and least costly) locking mechanism is the cylindrical tube lock, contained within a 3-inch diameter housing that fits in a hole bored in the door. It's commonly used in combination with a deadbolt. Both are relatively quick and easy to install. At the other end of the spectrum is a window lock, which comes in a metal case that pops recessed into the edge of the door. These require special tools and a skilled installer because of the sturdy metal housing. Window locks are more expensive, but they're also much harder to bypass with a screwdriver. No lockers, regardless of type, will make a difference if you're not using the right hardware. So be sure to ask the lock installer for advice. The lock is only as good as the installer, and your installer.



Deadbolt Locks

One of the most popular types of door locks is the deadbolt, which is a sturdy metal bolt that extends into the door frame when locked. It's a great choice for homes with a high level of security.

Window Locks

The most common type of window lock is the cylinder lock, which is a small lock that fits into the edge of the window frame. It's a great choice for homes with a high level of security.

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Entertainment Central

» Get instant access to all your digital movies, music, and pictures—and cut down on clutter while you're at it

BY JASON CAPEPENTER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM SHARPLEY

SURE SOME PEOPLE KEEP THEIR MUSIC and movie collections neatly shelved and alphabetized by artist. But most of us have piles of random disc every where—in stacks on the nightstand, under the kids' soccer, under the seat in the car. And don't put CDs and DVDs. How about the mess of music files and family photos scattered around your computer's hard drive?

The high-tech solution to this problem is something called a digital media center. By storing all your entertainment files in a central "base," a digital media center can distribute music, movies, and pictures to TVs and audio equipment throughout your house. That means never again finding your favorite Beatles Rolling Stones CD in use as a coaster, or popping Caddyshack into the player and getting Caddyshack instead.

What's more, most of these systems let everyone in the house access content at the same time. So you can be listening to music in your office while the kids watch *Cartoon Network* in the basement and your wife shows a vacation slide show to friends in the family room, all at the touch of a remote-control button.

HIDING THE HARDWARE

The heart of any digital distribution system is the server, where your music and movies are stored. Stark and compact, these units—essentially giant hard drives—can be tucked out of sight in a closet or basement. Some servers are connected to your home computer, where they stream entertainment files, pluck them out, then cache and store them. Others come with built-in “media readers,” which let you load CDs and DVDs directly.

The only visible component is the digital player, which looks like a small cable box and connects to your television. With a click of the remote, you can display on-screen menus that show you every item in your collection, sorted by title, genre, price, or just about any other way you choose. “It’s incredibly convenient and easy,” says Jon Goldstein, CEO of a California software company, who recently installed such a system in his home. “It suits our lifestyle, which has become basically an on-demand lifestyle.”

If you already have the wiring for a home network, using one of these systems can be as easy as plugging it in to the box and plugging it in. If not, you’ll need to run cables to the rooms that will be connected to the professional installers. Most manufacturers don’t recommend wireless systems because current technologies aren’t very good at sending large video files over the airwaves—yet.

THREE BASIC OPTIONS

Right now, there are three main types of media centers on the market, each with its own way of storing and distributing entertainment.

Blatant-kiosk computer system. This system does double duty as your home computer and media distribution hub. Fine-play video cable runs the back of the computer into the back of your TV or audio-video components, and you’re ready to practice being a couch potato. In addition to stored movies and music, special media-distribution software lets you watch and download exclusive content from the Internet, as well as pause and record live television broadcasts, just like TiVo. For movie features on a budget, these systems—available on computers from more than 100 manufacturers, including Gateway, Dell, and Sony—are the most affordable choice, starting at about \$699, though their laundry list of capabilities can make them a challenge for all but the most techno-savvy or music-music.com/content/server/index.cfm

Server/PC combo. This type of system comes with a server, digital player, and remote control, but uses your existing home computer as the “media reader” for transferring files. Once connected to your computer, the server grabs digital video, music, and picture files, then copies, organizes, and stores them. That gives you the option of deleting them from your hard drive to free up disk space. The system, which costs about \$3,000 for the server and three players, can support up to eight players running at once and has a creative

On-Screen Menus

Many systems let you organize and access content in various ways. By using the remote control, you can:

- Browse and create playlists of your favorite music
- Browse your collection by genre, artist, and album
- Organize your digital pictures, creating slide shows accompanied by music from your archives
- Sort through and play your digital/home videos and downloaded films and video clips



Learn how to set up a home theater from the pros at www.hometheaters.com.

feature that allows you to make a digital-picture slide show set to your favorite music. *—Steven Cozzitelli*

Out-of-the-box system. This comes complete with everything you need: a server, a media reader, and a digital player. Pop a CD into the reader, and in 8 minutes the contents are loaded in a music-like DVD takes about 20 minutes. The system can hold up to \$25 movies and play on as many as 28 screens at once. You'll have to invest some time on the front end getting your collection loaded, but once you do, you'll never have to fumble with a CD case again—and think of all the extra room you'll have in your bookshelves. Easier to use, this system is also the most expensive, at about \$22,900 for a basic setup. At present, it does not store or display digital pictures. *—Richard Kohn*

With all their features and options, digital media centers come with one unexpected side benefit: They give an edge to encourage you to make room in your life for things other than digital movies and music. “You don’t need to have your media in your family room anymore,” says Goldstein. “That gives us room for books and art.” ■



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VESicare is for urgency, frequency, and leakage (overactive bladder). VESicare is not for everyone. If you have certain types of heart, kidney, or prostate problems, do not take VESicare. While taking VESicare, if you experience a serious allergic reaction, severe drowsiness, or become constipated for three or more days, tell your doctor right away. In studies, common side effects were dry mouth, constipation, blurred vision, and indigestion.

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Making New Furniture Out of Old Shutters

To create the sides of this combination rum cabinet and bookcase, Mike Whitfield of Black Dog Salvage (blackdogsalvage.com) used a pair of vinyl-panel shutters rescued from a demolished frame of the century house. By cutting holes in the top of each shutter and inserting antique iron scrollwork, Whitfield added visual interest to the piece. The flipped springs also allow natural light to pass through and illuminate what's inside the cabinet.

For its try, Whitfield used the little-entrails of a half-damaged 1850s shutter. The door is actually a mirror 28-inch wide that gives the piece the look of an old English telephone booth when the glass is up.

As with most of Whitfield's furniture projects, this cabinet is made almost entirely from salvaged materials. "Only the wheels and screws are new," he says.



straight from fading decay and destruction. The centered slots on leeward shutters—each one on both fixed and adjustable screens—provided ventilation, light control, and privacy on second-story windows.

Dark green colors, such as forest green, black, and brown, were typical for shutters of Gothic Revival and Italianate-style houses in the mid-1800s. Matched to the color of the study, the shutters maintained a cohesive look when they were open, and resembled the dark roof of a house when closed, says Cassius Byrds and wife 19th-century paint companies sold each time, including deep red, rose, and gold, for Queen Anne and Shaker-style homes. White or black painted shutters, which made a bold contrast against the brick facades of Colonial Revival homes, were typical in the first half of the 20th century. By this time, shutters were used more for decoration than function.

"This was also when you started to see romanticized cottages [or cottages] of squalls, half houses, and quarters in the tops," says Corbett.

Today, new shutters with a traditional look come in a variety of materials, including wood, vinyl, and fiberglass. But for the real deal, he is an architectural salvage yard. There you'll find dozens of shutters, many of which were hand-carved from old-growth timber and still have their original paint. Some of them bear a flower pattern, typically carved into the top or bottom of the frame. "Each shutter was custom built for one window, so when you took it off a house, or inside a house, you had to have a system of identifying which one went where," says Mike Whitfield, owner of Black Dog Salvage in Rossville, Virginia.

When searching for a single replacement shutter, keep in mind that horizontal rails, vertical stiles, louver, and corner panels cut way in size and thickness. Whitfield suggests trying a sample with you when you shop. Expect to pay anywhere between \$15 and \$300 per shutter, depending on size, condition, wood type, and use.

Salvage yards occasionally get a large quantity of shutters rescued from a single source. These matched screens lend a period look to a new house, just as you did fit as you windows before you buy. A porch will be a good look to the walls and height of the window itself, and fit snugly within the car-



Old shutters captured "shutter dogs" (shown) to secure them in the open position against the house wall. These antiques with shell, G-shaped, and scroll-like motifs have been salvaged at the shop of G. Donkington Hardware Restoration in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Such reproductions can also lend a period look to shutters.

riage casing. Even if you don't plan to open and close them, they should look as if you could.

Cutting, fit and paint color only matter if you plan to use old shutters as they were originally intended. Many salvaged finds are destined for creative projects inside the house or in the garden. Tall ones, hung together like a folding screen, help block winds around an outdoor dining area, or curtain off space between dining and sleeping areas in a bedroom. A single louvered panel, hung with its top pointing down toward the wall, can double as a magazine rack, says Whitfield. You could also incorporate a pair of salvaged shutters on a screen or a bookcase wing, or use them in a display for a curio cabinet or bookcase like the one Whitfield built shown in the image using 190-year-old hand-painted panels with a scrollwork design.

Their long-standing use as both functional and decorative architectural elements ensures that shutters will continue to be popular additions to homes old and new. The challenge will be choosing where to install them on the house or inside it.

How to buy and paint: blackdogsalvage.com

PHOTO: J. B. BROWN

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Now every surface (right) home can be green. Panel (1) is made with boards made from compressed sugarcane stalks (Q) or laminated bamboo (Q2). Design (1) is backpainted with tiles made from industrial pulverized metal (Q3) and uses your most room floor with recycled rubber (1) (M).

Natural Selections

► New materials and products for walls, floors, and countertops let you build healthier without sacrificing looks or performance

BY KEITH RANDOLPH PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALISON FOGA

HARDLY A DAY GOES BY when we hear at *The Old House* aren't we seeing some new environmentally friendly product to review. And we see dozens more throughout the year in building trade shows and so-called green expos. But for the homeowners who're trying to decide which countertop material or side of cork to choose, it can be hard to separate the truly innovative options from mere green window dressing. So we've done some of the work for you. Here are a handful of choices for walls, floors, counters, and worktops that have a big design impact but make a small demand on earth's resources.

FOREST-FRIENDLY PANELING

Two versatile new paneling products are made from renewable materials. The first is *Kem board*, an engineered panel made by heat-growing the discoloration of harvested Chinese-Chinese sugarcane plants, a novel crop. The result is a stylish wood substitute that can be used for walls, floors, ceilings, and cabinetry. It comes in three thicknesses— $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. About \$9 per square foot (timber.com).

Rylock's 3/4-inch-thick *Nogrip* board is also made by compressing stalks, in this case bamboo, with a low-VOC adhesive, to the point that they become twice as hard as red oak. But unlike oak,



bamboo can grow to maturity just four years, which makes it a popular sustainable substitute. The blend of natural and "catalyzed" bamboo—so called because pressure-bearing raises the sugar compounds to darker to a deep amber color—gives this stuff, which can be used for flooring, paneling, or furniture, the look of an exotic species without the harvesting. \$190 per 2.5-by-4-foot sheet (plybox.com).

RECYCLED GREENBACKS

The name—*Greenbacks*—is almost shockingly clever, since the sturdy countertop material is made with actual US dollar bills, straight from the Federal Reserve. The paper fibers are mixed with a nontoxic adhesive, then pressed into a scratchproof, waterproof, and stain-resistant 1 1/2-inch-thick countertop, sink surrounds, or table. Since it machines like Corian and other countertop materials, you can saw, drill, screw, or rout it. \$45-\$65 per square foot (about the same as solid surface), *aboban.com*.

BORN-AGAIN PORCELAIN

When it comes to performance, it's hard to beat porcelain. It's tough, scratch and stain resistant, impermeable, and, in the case of Eco-Green Ultra porcelain tiles, earth-friendly. Eco-Green is made in Italy using 30 to 32 percent post-industrial porcelain—material that was broken or discarded during the manufacturing process. The colorful, 16-inch tiles are as strong as granite thanks to a fiberglass-reinforced backing and can be used on walls, floors, and counters. About \$16 per square foot, sold in 39-by-118-inch sheets (\$311 per sheet), *ecogreen.com*.

FUME-FREE POLISH

The best part of any remodeling project is when all the sweeping and sanding and sawing is done, and you make your hard-won gleam with a final coat of polish. Daddy War's new line of natural furniture-care products, made with pure, certified bioresins of "monosoluble grade" lavender oil (no synthetic hardeners), can make buffing your furniture an uplifting experience. Latest, this lavender is treated for its mold-inhibiting properties. \$21.98, *daddywars.com*.

For more greenbuilding options: *timberhouse.com/nature*

GREEN GREASE

If you're tired of spraying the ground (or to mention yourself) with petroleum distillates every time you fire up the chain saw, Scott's got a solution for you. Vegetable-oil-based *Boopies* cleans lubricant and bar oil in seconds for chainsaws, microtrimmers and, best of all, you. Its flow characteristics are similar to traditional lubricants, and it has a high flash point. It's also about 94 percent biodegradable. \$7.95 for a 1-liter bottle, *stihlusa.com*.

LOW-VOC SEALANTS

Just as the paint industry is lowering the content of VOC (volatile organic compounds) in its products, so too are caulks and adhesives manufacturers. OSI is now on board with its new *Green Series H3U* acrylic urethane sealant for windows and siding. Durable, easy to clean up with water, and mold-and-mildew resistant, it has a VOC content of just 5 grams per liter—twelve times less than OSI's standard polyurethane sealant. At \$3.95, it costs about the same as regular sealants. OSI also offers low-VOC acrylic latex caulk, deck and subfloor adhesive, and drywall adhesive. *greenosci.com*.

REC-ROOM RUBBER

When you're a kid, there's nothing better than playing on an old tire swing—except if that tire swing has been ground into rubber granules, which is what *Recycled Rubber* is all about. Made by *Mossy and Daddy* as colorful floor tiles at your playground. Though used primarily in commercial buildings, ECO's recycled rubber tiles, which come in 36-by-36-inch or 18-by-18-inch tiles, work great on a soft, easy-to-clean surface for playgrounds, kitchens, or home gyms. Best of all, if one tile gets worn out, you can just pull it up and slip down a new one. \$6-\$9 per square foot (recrub.com) ■

You can polish wood, clean counters, wash windows, caulk pipes, even take your chain saw—all without toxic chemicals. Scott's got it. See Natural's and Scott's Natural's specialties in green products but also available in many other markets. See Scott's and OSI are getting to be the best.



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TOOLBOX



Beasts of Burden

» Sawhorses are the the four-legged foundations beneath everything you'll ever build. Here's how to choose the right ones for the job

BY HARRY SANFORD
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TERRY WITMAN



AS ONE OF THE ONLY TOOLS shared by all the trades, the sawhorse can truly be said to carry the weight of an entire house. These sturdy, crisscrossing useful trussers shoulder everything from rough lumber, rough-cut roof purlins, or drywall panels, or become a piped-roofed table for mitering trim, mending tools, or serving lunch.

Their utility doesn't end once a house is built. Homeowners use sawhorses for all sorts of painting and wallpapering projects, as well as to prop doors, refresh shutters, or replace windows.

Back when a worker's only option was custom-built his own workhorse, its design was dictated by its specific application. Today, the work of a thousand craftsmen is available in the next few pages, we've rounded up a list of the best for your workshop, all of them strong, sturdy, easy to store, and fit for projects big and small around the house.

SUGGESTION
Round PVC rolls allow the sawhorse to adjust to uneven terrain. Simply loosen the built-in locking wheel to the legs—made of welded powder-coated steel—and pivot them until they're stable. You can also slide the legs using the rail to fit tightly against the workspace and load it at once. LWB, 30" x 18", 30" high, 4,000-lb. capacity \$599
thehouseandhome.com

Note: Capacity and price are for pairs of sawhorses, weight is for a single horse.



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Central Vacuums

» In-wall piping yields cleaner rooms and clearer air

BY JOHN QUARSKO ILLUSTRATION BY HARRY CAMPBELL

CENTRAL VACUUM DOES FOR HOUSEWORK what central-air conditioning does for cooling: It eliminates the hassle of storing and schlepping heavy equipment, it's easier to use than a portable unit, and it just plain works better. And in the same way that central air has become a necessity for many homeowners, central vacs are becoming standard features in new homes and a common retrofit in existing ones.

Central vacuums work essentially the same way as portable versions, with one big advantage: Because the motor doesn't need to be lightweight, it can be more powerful, able to generate suction strong up to five times greater than that of an average upright. It also makes a good deal of noise, but because the unit is typically housed out of sight in the garage or basement, you can vacuum without fear of waking the baby or missing a phone call.

To use the system, you simply plug a long tube hose into one of the walls or floor-mounted inlets, which is connected to the motor via a network of PVC pipes snaking through the walls and floors. That signals the vacuum to turn on. Captured dirt goes through the pipe to the motor housing, where it's filtered out of the airstream and dumped into a bag or container (see "The Dirt on Collectors," page 64). There's an exhaust air blowing that sends the noise like there's a siren with a siren, so you get a more thorough cleaning job and a substantial improvement in indoor air quality. "They're much healthier than the miniHEPA vacuums in most people's homes," says Kevin Kennedy, program manager in the Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Department at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

For many people, that's reason enough to make the switch. For others, it's about the convenience: no cords to plug in or trip over, no heavy canisters to lug or store. Almost any standard attachment is available, including crevice tools, upholstery brushes, even heads for cleaning ceiling fans or car antennas. One popular option is a kickbox in a floor-level "disappearing" dust canister right into it. It's the perfect marriage of the oldest housecleaning tool—the broom—with the latest vacuuming technology. (Any exhaust pipes left

HOW IT WORKS



47 to 61 percent
Decline in allergy symptoms of people who live in houses with central vacs, according to research conducted by the University of California at Davis, 2001.



GET THE MOST FROM YOUR ROOF, THE HOME'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

THE ROOF OVERHEAD—There's more to your roof than meets the eye. It's what you can't see that ensures that this important part of your home is truly a shelter from the weather.

Understanding the structure that lies beneath the roof's surface will help you to make important decisions with your builder or roofing contractor. Investing wisely at the construction stage will help protect your investment, give you peace of mind, and likely save you from costly future repairs.

Shingles, tile, shakes or metal roof often make up the roof's surface, the part of the roof that is easily seen. However, these roof coverings are not waterproof. They work by shedding water toward the eaves and gutters. Anything that prevents the roof from shedding water, like ice dams or wind-driven rain, can force water up underneath the roof coverings, causing leaks—even on a new roof.

Savevy homeowners should demand and qualify contractors will generally install a high-performance roofing underlayment before they install the roof coverings. These underlayments will help prevent any water that is forced under the roof coverings from leaking into the house.

There are two broad classes of underlayments, those that are fully adhered and those that are mechanically attached. Fully adhered underlayments like GRACE Ice & Water Shield® provide a complete waterproof layer under the shingles. This product adheres directly to the roof deck and seals around all the fasteners that are used to hold down the roof coverings. Therefore, if ice dams, and heavy standing water in the eaves, or a sudden occurrence in northern climates, GRACE Ice & Water Shield will prevent water from seeping through the membrane as protected with thousands of laborers.

In ice dams or hurricanes, winds GRACE Ice & Water Shield will prevent water that is forced under the roof coverings from leaking into the house. After the severe hurricanes of 2004 and 2005, homes that used GRACE Ice & Water Shield were generally protected from leaks even if the roof coverings were blown off by high winds. The underlayment tended to stay in place, protecting both structure and contents.

Synthetic underlayments like GRACE TriFlex 3D® are the next class of underlayments. They are mechanically attached to the roof and provide a secondary water shedding layer below the roof coverings. Like with fully adhered underlayments, GRACE TriFlex 3D will help prevent leaks from wind-driven rain channeling any water that gets under the covering back to the surface.

Both GRACE Ice & Water Shield and GRACE TriFlex 3D offer superior performance and longevity compared to traditional roofing felt. GRACE Ice & Water Shield should be applied at the eaves, and in valleys around skylights, and dormers on any other vulnerable area. Either GRACE Ice & Water Shield or GRACE TriFlex can be applied to the entire roof for protection from wind-driven rain.

When you're having your roof done, the parts you don't see are as important as the parts you do see. Invest on a quality underlayment to help keep your home dry.



Influence on the Height of Ice Dams and the Membrane Coverage Required

- 1. CLIMATE**—Lesser snow fall will affect the amount of membrane needed.
- 2. SLOPE**—On a low slope, ice dams will extend farther inward from the roof edge.
- 3. OVERHANG**—A wide overhang will require more membrane to reach the appropriate point on the roof.
- 4. INSULATION AND VENTILATION**—A very well insulated building with a cold well ventilated attic will have smaller ice dams.
- 5. VALLEYS**—Any valleys formed by protrusions such as dormers or roof direction changes are likely to trap more snow and cause larger ice dams.
- 6. EXPOSURE**—A northern exposure or shaded area will greatly contribute to larger ice dams.

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The Hole Truth

» How to patch up damaged drywall

BY THOMAS BAKER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID CARRACK

GOODBYE SPINDS AND THIRDS! Not too many doors. An electrician arrived to install how or when into a new feature. An energetic teenager pulled down the door. Whether it be accident or intent, screws or nails, a wall is seldom not good and how to be good.

Fortunately, it's fairly easy to make a good, virtually invisible repair. The first step is to buy a repair kit. A variety of Norwalk's different pieces of white, yellow, and green compound, and a few common tools are all it takes. If you are the hole-patching technique demonstrated in the following pages by The Old Farmer general contractor Tom Kline,

There's a better method—get the hole to fit the patch, not the other way around—is usually forgotten. Working the patch compound is more of an art. "Apply this coat," he says, "and don't let it dry. After two or three coats, here it goes, and it's dry." Turn the page to see how Tom makes a hole disappear.

Patching Holes in Drywall

Step-by-Step

1 | CUT OUT THE PATCH: Pick a scrap of drywall that's the same thickness as the damaged drywall and cut out a square-cornered patch big enough to cover the hole. Place the patch over the hole and pencil its outline on the damaged wall. Draw an X on the wall above the hole and an arrow on the patch that points at the X so you'll know how to orient the patch in Step 2.



2 | PREP THE HOLE: Use a drywall saw to cut from the edges of the hole to each corner of the outline. Score along the outline with a utility knife. Snap back the drywall pieces inside the outline, then cut each one free with the knife.



3 | ADD STRAPPING: Cut a piece of 1/2" wood strapping 2 inches longer than the height of the hole. Squeeze a bead of construction adhesive along one face of the strapping. Without touching the adhesive, carefully insert the strapping into the hole with the adhesive facing out. Pull the strapping firmly against the damaged drywall and drive two screws, in a staggered pattern, through the drywall and into both ends of the wood. Take care to dip the screwheads when they're just below the surface of the wall, not deep enough to tear through the paper.



4 | ATTACH THE PATCH: Align the arrow on the patch with the X on the wall, then press the patch firmly against the wall where the two screws straggled. Push the patch and into the strapping.

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5 | COVER THE SIGNS. Use a 6-inch taping knife to brush a thin layer of patch compound over the patch, the screws and the screwheads. Cut a piece of window screen a few inches longer and wider than the patch; then press it into the compound with the brush. (The screen prevents cracks from forming between the patch and wall.) Add more "White Stuff" (see below) if the excess. Work from the center of the patch outward to avoid wrinkling the screen.



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The White Stuff

Joint compound for mending holes, cracks, either pre-mixed in a bucket or powdered in a bag. Plastic is convenient. Just open the bucket and spread it around in this case, though you must wait a day for each layer to dry. Powdered or setting-type compound requires extra work with the first and—if less to be mixed with the right amount of water and the surface being repaired should be wet down—but because it hardens faster, 18 to 20 minutes (depending on the setting time of the product you select), multiple layers can be applied in one day. Also, you can smooth out imperfections in setting-type compound just before it hardens completely, which reduces sanding time and ending dust.



6 | APPLY FINAL COAT

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**HOMEOWNER'S
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PROJECT SERIES

Installing a Pull-Out Faucet

BY MICHAEL LUGO
ILLUSTRATION BY KATHY SARTY

A STYLED KITCHEN FAUCET with a built-in hand cleanser is the look of your sink, what with the spout, the hot and cold handles, and that sleek black gray base (which, let's face it, always looks like a piece of art). The current trend in faucets is a single, sleek area protruding from the sink rim—base, faucet, spout, and hot and cold controls all in one place. One hand, all functions.

Pull-out (and pull-down) faucets have a retractable spray hose built into the faucet and handle area. Great for filling pots, cleaning dishes, and giving a hand of lettuce a thorough rinse, they're another beautifully customized and highly cost-effective convenience in the world of kitchen expediency. Don't forget: Like most faucets, they're a snap to install. Just the rest of a few things and you've brought your kitchen one step closer to the modern world.

Illustrator: High Arc pull-out kitchen faucet, from Hansgrohe (\$234)

COST:
\$200 to \$2,000 depending on the faucet you choose

TIME:
One hour

DIFFICULTY:
The installation steps are very straightforward but involve a lot of work with cutting, drilling, and sanding or sandblasting the sink.



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Espresso



Red Oak



Dark Walnut



Enduring Products Enduring Beauty

{ overview }

TOO-OFTEN PLUMBING PROJECTS SCARE HOMEOWNERS. All these lines and malleable solder—it's enough to make you put the plumber on speed dial.

But you can bring up the plans. The faucet part of plumbing is at least a bit different. These days, the most oft-replaced plumbing fixture hooks up with a pair of simple compression fittings—threaded nuts that fit onto the hot- and cold-water supply valves and tighten without a welder, soldering, pipe dope, or even Teflon tape. "It's a really homeowner-friendly system," says Richard Trethewey, *The Old-Face Plumbing and Heating Expert*.

On some faucets, flexible braided water-supply hoses take the place of rigid tubing, making the installation even easier. Many, however, still come with rigid copper or chrome supply lines. These have a threaded or threaded fitting on the end and are designed to be attached to lengths of braided line with compression fittings, which you will have to buy separately. Then there are the European products that come with no connectors at all. In that case, you have the choice of adding a compression fitting to the rigid tubing and attaching it directly to the valves, or using a compression coupler that allows you to attach a braided line.

Most pull-out faucets have a single control for hot and cold a touch right to the spout, so they only need one hole cut through the rim or counter at the back of the sink. But if you're replacing a fixture with two separate handles for hot and cold, you'll discover that you're left with three holes behind your sink or four if you also have a separate spray hose. In that case, you'll need to mask the holes with escutcheon plates—an oblong one for under the faucet and a small round one for the old spray head. Or, if you have too many leftover holes but don't like the look of an escutcheon, this would be a good time to consider replacing the sink itself.

shopping list

1 | FAUCET Usually comes without piping necessary for the installation, except braided supply lines for soldering rigid tubing. Always check the content listing before you leave the store for one.

2 | BRAIDED SUPPLY LINES Necessary to connect faucets that have rigid tubing. Available in most home centers or hardware stores. One end of the line braided line should have a threaded connector to fit it into the rigid tubing; the other will have a compression fitting that connects to the water supply valve.

3 | ESCUTCHION PLATES If necessary, fit over holes in the sink or in the countertop when replacing a three-hole faucet. Some faucets do include escutcheons, so check the package. You may also need a round round escutcheon to plug the hole from the sink's old spray head.



SHARPEN YOUR SKILL
Pay that plumber back by removing your old faucet. Workshop, p. 325

{ step by step }

1

Remove the old faucet

Turn off the hot- and cold-water valves under the sink (note which is which by attaching the new faucet later). Test the faucet. If the water still comes on, your valves aren't working, and you will need to shut off the water at the next valve down the line or at the water main.

With a small bucket or bowl ready to catch any water remaining in the supply lines, use an adjustable wrench to loosen the nuts connecting them to the valves (RIGHT).

With a basin wrench, reach up to the underside of the counter and loosen the nuts holding the faucet (and hot and cold handles, if necessary) to the top of the sink. Remove the old faucet.



2

Position the new faucet

Screw the base line to the spring head and thread the hose through the spout.

If it isn't already attached, mount the temperature control handle to the faucet, using the set screw and tool provided with the kit.

Slide the black rubber sealing ring over the hoses and supply line and onto the faucet stem. This is also where you would put on the escutcheon plate if you need one.

Thread all the hoses through the center hole in the sink rim (LEFT). If your sink or counter surface is uneven, you may find some plumber's putty (available at hardware stores) under the faucet to seal it.

3

Attach the faucet to the sink

From underneath the sink, slide the triangular plastic washer then the four-washer metal washer and finally the circular nut over the hoses.

Push the nut assembly up to the underside of the counter. Screw the circular nut onto the large threads of the faucet stem. Use the basin wrench to tighten it. Then clamp the nut to the triangular plastic washer with the screw provided (RIGHT).

Have a helper hold the faucet in the correct position on top of the sink when you tighten it in place underneath.

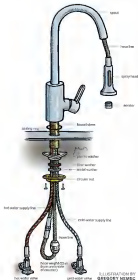


ILLUSTRATION BY
GLENNY KIMBLE

4

4 Connect the water supply lines

If your faucet has rigid tubing, connect it to the hot- and cold-water supply lines (the cold water line will usually be marked with blue and the hot with red). Then attach the supply lines to their respective valves. If you can't tell which supply line is hot or cold, you may have some trial and error.

Loose the loose end of the spray hose upward, connect it to the third line coming from the faucet.

Use an adjustable wrench (or any smooth-jawed wrench) to tighten the compression nuts (LEFT). Use a second wrench to keep the supply hose from turning (holding the small end at the bottom of the line) while you get the compression nuts one last quarter turn.

TIP > Never use Teflon tape, Teflon paste, or other chemicals on compression fittings, as they can lubricate the fitting and cause leaks.

Install the hose weight

Pull out faucets have weight in the middle of the hose that not only limits how far you can extend the hose but also helps it retract back into the spout. Measure 19 inches down from the underside of the faucet on the spray hose. Fit the two parts of the weight around the hose at this point and screw it together (RIGHT).

Put the faucet out of the spout to test the distance and the retraction action. Move the weight if necessary. Be careful not to put it so far down on the hose that it rolls on the floor or the spout, or the spray head won't retract all the way.

5

6

6 Flush out the aerator

Turn on the hot and cold supply valves and look for leaks at each connection. If you find any, check that the nut is torqued in tight. Otherwise, turn the water off again, then reconnect the fitting.

Unscrew the aerator at the top of the faucet spray head. Turn on the faucet so let water flush through the pipes and the spout (LEFT). Replace the aerator.

TIP > In any faucet installation, always finish by taking off the aerator and flushing out the pipes. This prevents air bubbles created by the installation from getting caught in the mesh filter, which can lower the faucet's water pressure.

buying guide

Stainless, chrome or copper—there's a pull-out or pull-down faucet to suit any kitchen. Here are a few attractive and practical designs that span the range in both style and price.

[A] BESSAGNY This pro-style faucet without extra-large working space, 2 1/2 feet of hose, and a spray head designed for the 5.8-foot sink is exactly good at filling large pots or washing the family dog. *ProMarket*, from Kohler, \$1,132.

[B] MOD SODAM A narrow spray head blends right in with the spout when retracted, making this sleek faucet a must-have for a Modern style kitchen. *Lady Lux Gold*, from Grohe, \$550.

[C] FIRST CLASS A saucer-shaped pull-down spout can be maneuvered with just two fingers. *Cubensis*, from American Standard, \$456.

[D] FLORAL ARRANGEMENT A tulip-shaped head and tapered spout handle give this single-lever pull-down faucet some added interest. *Floriata*, from Delta, \$424.

[E] OLD WORLD CHARM Modern conveniences don't preclude traditional design, as on this Victorian-style faucet with a wendy-style pull-out spray. *Victorian*, from Lexington Brass, \$965.

[F] THIRD SETTERS Finishes in solid brass or copper edge how-to-the latest trends in kitchen design. *Evans Country Pull-Out Kitchen Faucet*, from Field 5596, *Copper*, *Colebrook*, from Moen, \$232.

Installing shower valves for copper lines. *Michael*, *Boudin*, *com*, *Photo*.

TRILLI (400). Her paint-crazy interests, combined with her husband's (400) and their own, are evident in the house's early 20th-century style. The hand-painted wood depicts the local scenery and might have been done in the 1920s. (400) (400). Even the new tile walls show the shop and country's influence. The new colors reflected side by side in the island serve as the home's new color.



oldhouse, newspace

WHEN THIS FAMILY OUTGREW
THEIR HOME, THEY DECIDED TO ADD ON
RATHER THAN MOVE ON—IMPROVING THE PLACE'S
AWKWARD FLOOR PLANS IN THE PROCESS

by c. j. hughes photographs by judith benesky



ABOVE In the family room, the glass-fronted display cabinet is filled with the TV shows the family's collection of over 2,500 CDs and DVDs.

A half-century or so ago, homeowners who dipped an additional and snail-tracked other "improvements" passed the biggest threat to the historic homes in Glendale Hills, Illinois. Nowadays, it may be headstrong happy developers who are erecting blighted McMansions on relatively modest parcels of land. Beyond those new homes like Glendon Hills for the same reason people have for a hundred years. It's just 17 miles from Chicago, with a train stop right at its door. And it's quiet, in a Great Wood-meets-Norman Rockwell way. There's local dairy and a hardware store, kids ride their bikes to soccer practice, and police officers goot residents by name.

That small-town charm once reassured the owners of this 1909 American four square, which

RIGHT A large upstairs bathroom steered off the rise of the second story. Below is a small boy's bedroom, a second bedroom, and a new kitchen.

had been added on to in the 1940s, decided to renovate rather than relocate—erecting the kitchen and adding a master suite upstairs to make the house more livable for their family of four.

In part, the wife, an electrical contractor by trade, saw it as her civic duty to save the house rather than watch it be razed. And doing so was something of a family tradition. When she was growing up, her mom bought a succession of homes in the area and lovingly restored them—drugging her family along with her as she did. "Many of the people around here now want new houses," she says. "But I want to take these old bones and clean them up."

"All the family wanted was to cook and talk and watch Cubs games together, but the existing layout wouldn't let them do that." —DAVID RABNO-OGDEN, ARCHITECT

With her own plans, the first phase of the project came right after she and her husband moved in. The house still had peeling fat gauges and push-button light switches, not to mention its unreliable furnace. Plus, the water in the toilet located in the ill-conceived 1940s back wing would freeze whenever the mercury dropped. Fixing those problems required new wiring, heating and electrical systems, and cost \$30,000 (even with wholesale discounts for the electrical), tipping over the house improvement budget for some time to come.

More than a decade later, the couple's two daughters were starting to make noise about the lack of closet space. The family was also now too big for the kitchen and dining room, which were awkwardly separated by a wall, making it difficult to move between the stove and the table at mealtimes.

So the couple decided they'd move. But when they started looking around, a red truth became evident. Many of the neighborhood's old homes were no longer standing, and what was left was, generally, well beyond their \$750,000 ceiling.

About the same time, a "fixer-upper" moment struck. One night, David Rabno-Ogden, a local architect, was over for drinks. Rabno-Ogden, who had worked with the wife's father and her contractor brothers, told her she could have the great-room kitchen she desired, and the extra bathroom, without packing her bags. "What they wanted was to cook and talk and watch Cubs games together, but the existing layout wouldn't let them do that," says Rabno-Ogden. The stiff kitchen was at the older, lower part of the house. The clock, paneled no room was in the added-on back of the house—and not a place you wanted to hang out. An adjacent office didn't get much use, either.

Rabno-Ogden suggested the best way to grow the kitchen would be to relocate it within the office. Though it wouldn't be easy to make plumbing through the narrow crawl space, bringing out just 1 foot for a square bay of windows overlooking the backyard would fill the kitchen with light and views. And taking down a couple of walls would make room for a



ABOVE The homeowners kept the French doors (originally backed into a closet) between the family room and living room. Their collection of colored glass can be seen from both rooms.



first floor

The kitchen was moved to the back of the house (shown in office had been) and opened up to the family room. A full bathroom was directed to powder room proportions to make space for a mudroom. The original two-story hallway is a 2-foot bumpout for the kitchen's bay window.



Adding an office and a smaller bathroom carved out more for a master bedroom with its own bath and walk-in closet. Though the couple's daughters now share the former master bedroom, they're happy to have a separate bath and plenty of closet space.



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LEFT The slide shows the master bath floor is continued onto the tub surround. The tub alone's end defines the doorway to the master bedroom. The room is painted mandarin yellow as a tribute to the museum wing that was stripped off the house. **BELOW** Fine pastels, salvaged from the dining room's walls, was reused in making the vanity cabinets. Overhead wall-mounted light fixtures made at the Arts and Crafts theme

produced table, and open up the kitchen to an adjoining family room.

The new kitchen is not only warm and bright, it is stylistically more in line with the rest of the home, with custom Craftsman-style cherry cabinets and red-oak floors. Updating the look are a pro-style range and new white-finish fridge built into the built-in island, which has concrete countertops instead of the usual granite. "I wanted a no-bigger-than-everyone-else's," says the wife. There's even room for a drink nook with a copper

And, in the spirit of neighborhood preservation, the owners commissioned a mural to hand-paint a picture of what the area would have looked like at the mid-1800s—rolling green acres with winding dirt roads, mature trees, and a few modest homes. The mural frames the bay window hangout that faces the boulevard.



LIFE The new modern bedlinens, moldings and window shades originals found in the rest of the house. **BEDROOM** Purple leather lamp for the mantle shelf above the gas fireplace comes from a local furnitureyard. The slate tile from China is repeated in the master bath kitchen, and fruit porch/nook. It's ideal in a cladboard jaffee/corner in California homes.



Part of Rains-Copple's stockings called for indicating the size of the downstairs bath, making it into a powder room, and carving out a mezzanine room above. The mezzanine became the family room with a TV and speakers built into the wall, flanked by columns that hold the last of his sizable CD and DVD collection. French doors now open out onto a new paver patio. The existing French doors leading into the living room stayed, flanked by shelves loaded with books that allow a collection of colorful glass borders to be seen from both rooms.

To solve the space problem on the second floor, Kaimo-Optics designed a master suite, bumping out the back wall of the house over the downstairs addition to add an extra 400 square feet of space. Now four people don't have to squeeze into one upstairs bathroom, which the daughters are thrilled about. In the master bath, there are two and a half closets, a steam shower, and no alcove for the tub. The bedroom even got a small gas burning fireplace.

The major change to the outside was removing the mustard yellow aluminum siding in favor of muted gray cedar clapboards. While they were at it, the couple also expanded the front porch, ransacking the roof and building in open-tipped pergolas to allow more sunlight to penetrate the living room.

Best of all, they stayed on budget, spending \$113,000, which included the cost of the addition and interior changes, as well as re-siding the whole house with wood, sealing the front porch, and landscaping. Contractor Jon Jerril found materials where he could, salvaging old-growth pine boards from the city's coast's mills to build the master's thick vanity and re-laying the kitchen's pine flooring to the upstairs hallway, which helped save costs—and character. "It all looks like the original building, but it's the best of both worlds," says Jon. And, in the process of adding on, there's a chance to reimagine one's "microclimate," leaving space, as we call them, to breathe. ■

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Pegboard Drawer

Instead of having to belt plates onto a wall to reach over head shelves, you can stack them securely between adjustable pegs. Or use as a temporary fix to hold dishes between two drawers. An added bonus.

The idea here is intended to help utilize the otherwise Pott's® hidden drawers.

Sure, it may look like you've

got plenty of cabinet space in your kitchen. Surely, any your countertop still cluttered with spice jars, small appliances, and assorted cutlery? Why are your drawers overflowing with items like holders, spaghetti forks, and cheese graters, but not the one item you need when you need it? And why, pray tell, do you practically have to crawl inside your base cabinet to retrieve that 55-gallon lobster pot stored away in back?

The thing about kitchen cabinets is this: Even if you have 20 of them without some organizational help, they're little more than big, empty boxes—adult-style toy chests into which we cram whatever will fit, without any rhyme or reason.

But there are plenty of ways to start making more efficient use of your space, from simple drawer inserts to clever pull-out shelving units to full-on custom cabinetry that makes it easy to store (and more important, retrieve) every pot, lid, mixing bowl, and dish towel in your collection.

To get you started, we scoured the showrooms of four top custom cabinetry companies at Manhattan's Architects & Designers Building. What we found are 18 innovative ways for you to carve out new real estate in your overpopulated kitchen, or make better use of the space you have. And while the solutions pictured here must be ordered as part of a total cabinetry package, the creative ideas are available to all.



Flip-Top Cabinet

If you've got a little empty wall space, why not put it to use with a stylish deep-draw cabinet? Because the one layer at the bottom, it can be mounted open then individual cabinet providing easy to reach shelving above work or countertop. It also works well as a little desk for holding pens, paper, cookbooks, or other necessary items. www.potsbury.com



Two-Tiered Pot Holder

Pot holders are a problem. They take up too much space and tend to be boring. Imagine a more interesting solution. These deep-on-the-bottom, shallow-on-top pot holders are really room-saving devices. They hold pots and their notoriously unwieldy lids. The top shelf is also a good spot for those large, awkward, pot holders that never fit in your kitchen.

Under-Sink Organizer

That awkward area beneath the sink—also known as a kind of paper trash-can, rusty-scrubbing-pot, and undermounting-supply—is where even the most organized among us can go crazy. These drawers exchange all that, with compartments for sponges and scrubbing pads on the sink flapping, a wrap-around top, cleaning products, and anything else on the bottom. From Smathers.

Drawer to the Floor

The most overlooked storage potential in your kitchen might be right at your feet. By taking advantage of the ninety-cent binlock under-cabinet cabinet, this deep-draw deep drawer creates a new storage unit where you can put large pots and pans, day-to-day food, or even a bucket of laundry. From BedBath.



Turnable Me Doers

An eye-opening and mind-boggling idea, this lazy Susan-as-a-drawer that rolls into each other when you rotate the cabinet gives you unobstructed access to all the soap cans, condiment jars, or the favorite bamboo vegetable you need. When you're done, just give the carousel a whirl, and the clean pop back into place. From BedBath.

In a recent survey of kitchen pros, recycling bins, spice drawers, rotating shelves, and appliance garages were the most-requested storage options.



Stand-up Solution

The three-quarter-sized stand-up cabinet drawer is similar to the old-fashioned version, it has a built-in space-saving, a new place for knives. An added advantage is not having to stack knives, which helps prevent chipping and breakage. From BedBath.

Hidesaway Bar

Compact and discreet, this bar cabinet fits you, comfortable cocktail glasses, mixing equipment, barware, and bottles in one convenient spot. A pull-out cutting board provides space for slicing lemons and onions, and when the party's over the entire unit, like your guests disappear into the night. From Wood Mode.



Knife Drawer

Drawers with built-in knife blocks and built-in knife counter space by storing your knives in a drawer with pull-out wood rails. Good-looking drawers accommodate all your knives. From BedBath.



To see more design solutions for your kitchen, visit <http://bedbathandbeyond.com/kitchen>



FROM THE STUDIOS

Making Something Out of Nothing

How do you restore architectural detail in a dilapidated inner-city row house? Enlist a handful of experts who can copy what remains, find something similar, or choose the best of what's new

By Alexandra Gordon

OPPOSITE AND LEFT: The abandoned row house in the heart of Washington, D.C., had no details left when contractors started, except the brick floor framing on the left and, THIS PAGE, New Orleans cast-iron columns support the roof and a chair not too far from its job with them

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

It's not that the boarded-up row house in Washington, D.C., was totally empty when Mi Casa Inc. acquired it from the city. It certainly had a lot inside: crumbled plaster, charred ceiling joists, garbage, animal bones, empty bottles, needles—all the detritus that went with its status as an abandoned inner-city building. It's just that it didn't have much of anything that made it look like the city had once it once was.

Mi Casa, a nonprofit developer, intended to reconstruct the house, located in Shaw, a reviving neighborhood not far from the White House, and then sell it at cost to a low- or middle-income family. But the building was a mess: only by the time the team from *The Old House* television showed up to document the transformation. There wasn't one window left. The original living room mantel had been stolen. A fire had left the brick at the cornice ruined and the oak flooring water-damaged. And all the window and door casings were gone, save two in the kitchen—and even those were nearly thrown away.

With nothing left to give the house character, the renovation team, headed by local contractor Major Malow, had to be creative. In the few places they could, they painstakingly copied remnants of detail. Where there were no such clues, they commissioned designs that were close but not exactly the same. And in areas where durability and efficiency were paramount, they installed new materials that looked original but were better made.

Whether it's in a whole house or just one room, every renovation encounters those issues. Here's how the team brought detail—and life—back to their house, using methods that will work on your home as well.



Replicate

* Copy lost details from scraps, photos, and other vestiges of the past

SOMETIMES IT'S THE SIMPLE CLUES that yield the greatest results. A small piece of trim, a family photograph taken in front of a house, a neighbor with a good memory—all can offer information about how architectural details came to be.

Take, for instance, a 1963 picture of the house from the city's Historic Preservation Office. It shows a central turret, and mangled remains at the cornice—elements that disappeared when the city did emergency repairs after a fire in the 1950s. Homeowners can often find rare old photos in local historical societies and flea departments, which take their second-hopping. Previous owners, or even neighbors, may also have pictures that show the house in the background.

Doing Pilowski, a preservation master himself to restore the brickwork, blew up the photo to study the cornice's pattern. He and his crew then added nearly six vertical feet of wall and rebuilt the original profile. (They replaced broken pieces with a matching brick found on a nearby building as, of all places, Kansas.) After weeks of work—and a new turret from the south—the restored section of the brickwork matched the original remaining parts.

For David Redden and the rest of the team from American Colonial and Millwork (ACM), a woodworking shop in Millersville, Maryland, there wasn't any worry about blending the moldings they created with what remained. By the time they showed up, even the two windows and

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MI CASA; PHOTOGRAPH BY THE LARRY ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY; PHOTOGRAPH BY THE LARRY ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY; PHOTOGRAPH BY THE LARRY ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY



RESTORING A DECORATIVE CORNICE

GOING TO THE SOURCE During the renovation, team leader Pilowski used a 1963 photograph of the house (left) to figure out the brick pattern on the original cornice. (He worked with a craftsman rebuilding the intricate profile brick by brick, right.) Pilowski's new cornice are indistinguishable from the original.



door casings left in the house had been demolished. All they could find was one paneled-wood piece, a couple of lost logs. "We literally pulled it out of the Dumpster," says Redden.

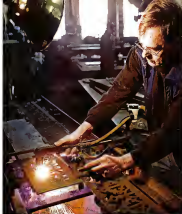
Molding in profiles from 125 years ago isn't always easy to find, even at a well-stocked shop like ACM. But thankfully they're easy to copy, and the other salvaged piece was all the shop needed to make a duplicate. Many mills will reproduce a molding profile, from a wire p or even from a drawing, by having new cutting blades made. These "turners" come at a minimum cost (around \$250), but even they're made, any shop can use them to cut the profile.

After snapping the piece off the scrap, the experts stood in outline on this metal that they shaped on a grinder. They used this template to cut two steel leaves, then put the leaves into the jaws of a molding machine that shapes plate lengths of wood as they're fed past the cutter. The mill has 1,000 feet of the trim—enough for all the doors and windows. But when the remnants of any other trim, they used existing stock for the cornice, chair rail, baseboard, and crown, choosing profiles that fit the home's style and complement the new casings.

RE-CREATING RESCUED MOLDINGS

To create a sense of their original form, the team used millwork scraps to make leaves that mirrored the cornice (1), then used them in a machine that cuts the molding (2). The new wood is a perfect match to the original (3), and looks right at home around the windows and doors (4).





A NEW IRON PATTERN FOR AN OLD STOOP

LEFT Master ironworker Fred Marbach files these steel castings to copy the details of the house's stilt and cast-iron stoop. So he turned to his own talents in first something appropriate. Having treated nothing like the small, precise cutters to trace the new design. **BELOW LEFT** Along with the window frame and sills, the finished doors absorb the wood floorboards the once built staircase.

Approximate

* Find a close match when there's no template or touchstone

EXACT COPIES ARE GREAT, but in situations where details are guess games, period-appropriate substitutions, like the door and old oiler windows, are more common. The house's intent is a perfect example.

Everyone who visited on the renovation before *TOH* became involved—from Elia Zierberg, the project director, to contractor Malarz Midori—remembered the carved beauty that stood in the living room. No one, unfortunately, had taken a picture of it before they were spared a memory—probably to tell a salvage yard, where hands start to turn as it is dismantled. So there was no concern on what it looked like, and even if there were, there would be no guarantee that a match could be found. But when a detail is unique, sometimes a close approximation is a fair compromise.

A salvage yard is a good place to go looking for such substitutes, as *TOH* learned at the Back Door Warehouse, a D.C. yard-overlaid with rescued house parts. Their day



SALVAGE SAVES THE DAY

ABOVE A salvaged metal, just after installation, isn't a copy of the original but fits from the right side and builds the fence. Layer of old paint were previously stripped the new wood will get several coats of weather protection.

found a carved-wood stair that was the right size and period appropriate. A dash in the stepping tank and a few coats of wax, and the piece fit as nicely.

But salvage isn't just for the sake of detail. Master ironworker Fred Marbach, who restored the steel and cast-iron front stoop, collects metal parts in his junkyard shop at home for use needs on for a restoration project. Good thing, because he had an iron hand just like the one missing from the stoop's handle.

On home he Marbach knew how to take a good piece like the staircase and make it look new again without sacrificing the design. He had to have the rickety joints stripped,

repair the wobbly railing, and replace modern diagonal plate steps with new tracks and covers.

Homeowners looking to replace iron elements—doors, gates, rails—can find a lot of old patterns still being cast by ironworkers. Marbach ordered the tracks from a Pennsylvania-based fabricator that specializes in period ironwork. But he altered the ones himself, using a modern plasma cutter to create an intricate design that wouldn't look out of place among the neighborhood's cast-iron originals. After making five men from slabs of black steel, he assembled the rails in his shop, then discovered it to install in on the front of the house, creating a perfect welcome mat for visitors to the refurbished home.

Buy New

* Choose materials and fixtures that mimic the originals but perform better

EVERYONE LIKES TO BE ABLE TO SAVE ORIGINAL FEATURES, like floors and windows. But when they're too far gone, or the rising floorboards in the D.C. project house were—no just gone altogether, as the windows were—it's better to copy than scratch.

Lucky, window and door manufacturers will still make their products in styles similar to those that were popular 125 years ago. For the D.C. project house, which is a classic urban fixer-upper, that means arched over-one windows and snug oak flooring. But these days, they don't make them like they used to. They make them even better.

The dual-paned windows from Eagle are much more efficient than originals with single panes would be, keeping air conditioning in during summer and cold drafts out during winter. They also block ultraviolet rays and tilt in for cleaning—modern features an old-style feature.

The flooring, prefabricated oak from DuraWood, is solid wood—as it would have been in the 19th century—but unlike the untreated oak the original butler would have used, which has to be sanded and coated with three layers of finish, this stuff is ready to walk on as soon as it's installed and comes with a 25-year warranty.

Even the hardware, from Parbo, that covers the kitchen floor has a modern twist: oak backing for cutlery and a snap-together assembly that allowed installers to finish the kitchen in mere hours. Yet another product that steals the beauty of the past but brings the convenience of the present to the project. ■



BETTER THAN OLD

ABOVE As *TOH* head Kelle G. Connor gets ready to jump in and lend a hand, this carpenter is now installing a new double window that splits the historic style of the house but protects it from the elements better than the originals could have—had there been any originals left in the house. **LEFT** New steel oak flooring is similar to the old floors, which had to be sanded due to rot and water damage. With a finish already applied, the floors are ready to be walked on as soon as they go down.

Right: new steel window from the D.C. project house; left: contractor Fred Marbach's work on the door.

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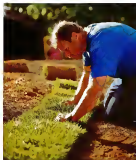




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Ask This Old House

NEED AN EXPERT? WE'VE GOT YOU. READY TO ANSWER YOUR HOME QUESTIONS?



Sod or Sand?

I can't seem to get grass to grow well in a little patch between my front walk and the driveway, near a few pine trees. Would I have better luck with sod?

BRUNSWICK, CALIFORNIA PERRY MCH

Roger Cook replies: Grass is grass, whether you grow it from seed or lay it out as sod. While growing conditions aren't right, it won't survive.

First of all, make sure the area gets at least five hours of sunlight a day. If the pines are blocking the sun, you could cut them down, but that's a drastic step given the size of your patch. Or you could just forget the grass and plant a shade-loving ground cover, such as pachysandra, instead.

If there is enough light, the soil probably needs help. Have a nearby lawn-care or extension service and follow their recommendations about what nutrients or materials to add. After you have the results, run over the top 6 to 8 inches of soil, work in sand or

compost if it's compacted, and use a shovel to thoroughly mix it. Now spread lawn starter fertilizer and the recommended additives, and rake them into the top layer of soil. Only then should you seed or sod.

The way I see it, you might as well get down and out. It won't cost much to cover your small area and you'll get some instant gratification for all your hard prep work.

Silencing a Gurgling Toilet

At irregular intervals this toilet gurgles violently and then all the water would drain out of the bowl. This seemed to happen when the washing machine, also on the first floor, discharged its load of wash water, and when the upstairs tub was being drained. What's going on?

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA RALPH MC

Richard Trethewey replies: I bet that one of your plumbing vents is blocked. Most people think that those small pipes that stick out of a roof are there to exhaust sewage smells, and that's true. But they also equalize the air pressure in the drain pipes so waste water can flow freely.

You can see how the principle works by sticking one end of a straw into a glass of water and then covering the other end with your finger. As long as you keep your finger in place, you can remove the straw, and water inside won't drain out. But when you remove your finger, the straw drains immediately.

The giant finger blocking your roof vent could be ice or snow or debris or even an animal carcass. The result? Whenever a lot of water goes down the drain, it sucks the water out of your toilet and maybe out of the traps under your sinks. The blockage probably makes your tub drain pretty slowly, too.

A plumber can remove an obstruction by



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WORKSHOP Ask This Old House

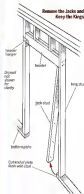
snoring a snake from the roof down your vent system, but to keep it from happening again, you have to figure out what's causing it. If it's ice, you can replace the top section of pipe with a bigger one, up to 4 inches in diameter. Or you can insulate the pipe below the roof, or even heat it with electrical cables, but that's usually not necessary except in extra climates. If snow buildup is causing the blockage, add an extension to the vent pipe clear the snow peak. And if animals are the blame, cover the end of the pipe with hardware cloth held in place with a hose clamp.

Widening a Door Opening

My wife will soon undergo surgery, and she'll need a wheelchair or walker during her recovery. But the bathroom door is too narrow for either device to pass through. Can I remove a stud from each side of the opening and install water door? The 3 inches I'd gain would be enough to allow a walker to pass.

© HILLY FITE, GARLAND, TEX.

Two-Week reply: Sure you can, although you'll probably have to buy an outside door and



WHAT TO GET

- A Emergency interior insulator
- B Battery-powered tubing pin
- C Pocket square for picking up litter in cars
- D Dr...

© PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY



that it doors to fit the actual width of the new opening.

First, remove the existing door and trim, then cut back the drywall or plaster on each side of the opening so its edge is even with the vertical joint between the double-up studs—the jack and king studs—that support either side of the opening. Pry off the jack studs, the ones closest to the opening. To support both ends of the header, attach metal brackets called header hangers. Now you can replace the casing around the door and hang your new, wider door in the opening.

Demolishing Chipmunks

What can I do to get chipmunks out of my mother's garden area? We don't want to hurt them, just remove them on their way.

JENN KOPPEL, EAST AURORA, ILL.

Three-Week reply: Chipmunks lived in the spring and summer, so the sooner you start your chipmunk program, the better your chance of success. I have to tell you, though, that deeply entrenched infestations can be difficult to remove.

There are all sorts of anecdotal remedies, but very few of them actually work. For example, when I tried clamping mesh into the burrows, the chipmunks removed and neatly deposited boxes in a pile outside the tunnel.

Illustration: JEFFREY

"The French dip sandwich was invented in my living room."



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LOWES

Nothing like a good deal

MARVIN

Windows



The best solution I've found is to make them think that predators are around by spraying for and/or using snare in these situations: the little critters pull up sticks and bend elsewhere. So do deer, raccoons, and other wild mammals, at least until it rains. Be sure to follow the product directions and comply as often as suggested, because if you don't keep up the pressure the critters will soon take you seriously. Chipmunks love to live in stone walls, but spray a small section of wall here to make sure the snare doesn't snag it. Same goes for possum.

Rebuilding Porch Columns

The columns on our porch are falling apart. What should we do?

JOHN ELLIOTT, DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS

Ken O'Connor replies: Judging by the condition of the paint, not too pretty well raised the concern of poor columns. But it's possible that not having reached the underlying porch posts, the

structural elements that hold up the porch roof.

The first step is to remove the boards and support the post. If it's already not attached, you'll have to shore up the roof temporarily and install a new post that's meant to resist rot. While you're at it, check the condition of the porch foundation, deck and roof, and for any deterioration before you install the posts. We were putting new posts on a weak foundation.

If the post is sound, you only need to replace the exterior boards and trim. I'd recommend using cellular PVC for both because it never rots, and it looks just like wood when painted. Caulk and screw the edges of the boards together, face-nail them to the post,

then caulk their lower edges to keep water from reaching the post. By the way, if that rotting board below the boards is just decorative, I'd run the trim boards all the way to the deck and then apply the board. That would eliminate any unnecessary paint.

The Protection

In my kitchen, I have a Saltillo tile floor that keeps getting chipped. Is there anything I can do to prevent this?

DEWANDA MOHAMMAD, CHICAGO, ILL.

Joe Ferrante replies: There's no finish strong enough to prevent a dropped pot from chipping a true Mexican Saltillo tile. About all you can do is peek a show rug in the impact zone to cushion the blow. You can't repair the chips, either, but you can make them less obvious.



Rotting, peeling paint reveals that this porch post needs to be replaced.

Saltillos are a relatively soft tile, which means you can sand away the damage using 150-grit sandpaper. Don't sand the entire tile—just hit the sharp edges and rough surfaces so they blend with the surrounding area. Unlike glazed ceramic tiles, the color of a Saltillo is fairly uniform from surface to surface, so sanding off a little here and there won't be noticeable. When you're finished, seal the tile with the same sealer you used on the floor before.

Joe Ferrante, author of *Saltillo Tiles: A Guide to Buying, Installing, and Maintaining Them* (The Old House Store).

Resilvering a Mirror

One of the lower corners of our bathroom mirror has turned dark. Is there any way to make it look like new again?

GLORIA ROYER, SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

Kate O'Connor replies: According to Joe Spevak, an expert on bathroom mirrors, this problem often shows up on bathroom mirrors because the moisture that condenses or splashes on

the edge of the mirror erodes the reflective silvering, and causes a black.

Resilvering is a complicated and fairly expensive process that can't be done at-home, so it's usually worthwhile only if the mirror is an antique, has etched designs or an unusual shape, or has great sentimental value. There's also a risk that a resilvered mirror won't look like new because the back of the glass is exposed or etched—both problems that are difficult to erase—or because scratches on the surface of the mirror will become more prominent. "You'll probably find it easier and less expensive just to replace it," Spevak says. ■

To send questions to Ask This Old House, write them to: Ask This Old House, c/o The Old House Store, 2801 Avenue of the Americas, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

For more information on Ask This Old House, visit www.thisoldhouse.com/askthisoldhouse.

Include complete address and daytime phone number. Please send questions with photos for clarity and length and may be used in the magazine. We regret that due to the volume of mail received, we're not able to reply to all published questions.

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QUALITY OF INDOOR LIFE

We spend a great deal of time in our homes, whether relaxing with family and friends, working in a home office or enjoying sports together. So we design, build and maintain them for maximum comfort, which means using quality materials, furnishings and appliances.

Men and women, though, are recognizing that a considerable home also means a healthy home. That's why indoor air quality has become such a major concern. The EPA, for instance, ranks indoor air pollution among the top five environmental

risks to public health. That's of particular concern to the 50 million Americans with allergies, as well as the 30 million—including one in 13 school-age children—who suffer from asthma.

"It's a well-documented fact: pollution levels can be many times higher indoors than outdoors," notes John D. Spengler, Ph.D., a professor of environmental health at Harvard University's School of Public Health. "It's clear: reduce smoke, pollen, mold spores, pet dander, cleaning products, cooking odors and other irritants in common areas." "So controlling the levels of airborne allergens is important," Spengler says.

Along with eliminating or reducing sources of airborne particles and improving ventilation, the EPA lists air cleaning devices as viable methods



The EPA, for instance, ranks indoor air pollution among the top five environmental risks to public health.

for reducing indoor air pollution. Houseowners are increasingly turning to this form, spending nearly \$200 million each year to get it in their homes. Much of this money is spent on air cleaning products that have a limited impact on a home's air quality.

Whole-house air cleaners work in conjunction with heating and cooling systems to remove airborne allergens from the filtered air in every room. "It's

crucial to treat the whole house," Spengler says.

Meanwhile, not all whole-house systems are created equal. Spengler's research finds that a system utilizing new electronic technology is more effective and requires less maintenance. "It can improve your ability to clean the air in the entire house," he says. Knowing this can improve your overall indoor quality of life.

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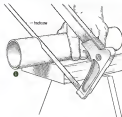
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Getting a Grip

How to "yield" plastic microcode

RELATED WORK, P. 10
CONCLUSIONS, P. 10

All the joints in PVD piping, whether it's used for the down and vents in house plumbing or as part of nonvent vacuum systems, are literally welded together with the chemical solvent. The solvent the pipes are dipped in temporarily melts an outer layer of PVD which lets the pieces be put together and forms a seamless, waterproof sample that's proof of error—once the weldsets, the only way I have shown to keep jobsites in a vacuum.

1. Measure and cut. To be sure that the pipe will fit properly in the fitting, measure the distance between the shoulders or the fittings at each end of the pipe. Transfer that measurement to the pipe and make a straight cut with a hacksaw. Scrape the inside of the cut surfaces with a utility knife. **2. Prime.** Spread cement primer over the outside of the pipe and the inside of the fitting, allowing it to flow in. The primer softens and clears the plastic. **3. Dry fit.** Assemble everything to make sure the pipe is the correct length. Grind the spigot ends of the pipe to make a reference surface for fitting the pipe into the fitting. **4. Slip.** Apply the cement to the inside area or the inside of the fitting and to the outside of the pipe.

3. Push and hold. Slide the pipe into the fitting until it bottoms out against the fitting's shoulder; that gave it a ¼-in. push to ensure the gaskets enveloped its curve. If you're attaching a fitting, push it as far into the relevance marks slightly out of alignment and turn the fitting to align the marks. Hold for 30 seconds, then wipe up any excess cement with a duster. —TOMMIE BAKER



Smoothing Setting-Type Joint Compound

Save on yarding with same hot, circular bowl work

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RELATED STORY: PESTS OF THE HOULETTIUM Unlike pre-mixed joint compounds in buckets, which takes about 12 hours to dry-powdered setting type can be used to patch holes in drywall.

Spread the compound smoothly over the repair (the wet or left becomes firm to the touch). Spray it lightly with a water bottle. Hold the trowel at about 30-degree angle off the surface and press it back and forth across the compound several times with increasing strokes. As the compound hardens, you can move the pressure and the angle of the trowel. If the slab starts to drag, lubricate it with sprays of water. Add tamping sound will reduce when the compound has hardened completely. After that point removal of most pressure will have no effect. — TJ

TONE TIP

Shining a utility light at a low angle over the repaired area will highlight any imperfections in the compound that need to be smoothed out.



Dividing Plants

What to do when a perennial gets too big for its bed

[RATED EASY 1-10]
[MADE FOR THE SHOP]

In a thriving perennial garden, whether it's mostly in sun or shade, older perennials will eventually outgrow their allotted space and send out new flowers. That's when it's time to divide the plants. Done properly, division multiplies your botanical assets—you get two or three plants when you only had one—and stimulates growth, which pays off in a stronger plant and more blooms next year.

Timing is everything with this technique. Late-flowering perennials are best divided in spring, well until fall for early bloomers, but well before the thermometer dips too low. You want the roots to have time to recover before the ground freezes. Note: The method works best on perennials with fibrous or fleshy roots, such as hebes, phlox, salvia, and rudbeckia. Plants with tubular roots, like geraniums or thistles, like bearded iris, should be cut apart with a knife. —*FR*



SHOVEL FORKS

1. **Dig it out.** Use a spade to cut around the plant and lift it out of the ground.
2. **Divide it.** Next, head over to the back to back in the middle of the root ball. Pry apart the soil ball by pulling the fork handles apart. Divide the pieces again, if necessary, but leave at least 6 inches in each division. Plant the divisions in newly-shaded.
3. **Replant.** Set each new plant in its hole so that the crown (where the stems emerge) remains just above the soil level. Fill the soil in around the roots, then water thoroughly.



...THEN PRY TO DIVIDE PLANT

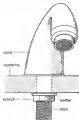
Loosening a Struck Nut

How to solve a common faucet removal problem

[RATED EASY 1-10]
[INSTALLING A PULL-OUT FAUCET]

Any time you replace an old faucet, you have to take off the backing nut that backs the faucet up to the counter top. But often that nut will freeze due to corrosion or mineral buildup from years of water seepage. Here are some tried-and-true tricks from Richard LaFreyre of the Old House Restoration and Plumbing Co. that will coax the nut loose without too much effort.

1. **Tighten the nut.** Moving it to any direction is progress. Then try to loosen it using a correctly sized wrench.
2. **Tap with a hammer.** Jam the nut on break its bond to the ball. To make sure you hit the nut itself and not the surrounding threads, place a center punch on the nut and strike the punch with the hammer.
3. **Apply heat.** Metal expands at 400° when hot, which may be enough to crack the nut free. You can do this with either a heat gun or propane torch (having an open flame within 12 inches of anything flammable, albeit it will cause noticeable damage.) Try before the nut before it cools.
4. **Soak the nut.** If the ball is covered with orange slimes or crusty bits of rust, scrub them away with a wire brush and wipe the area dry. Then soak the remaining of the Liquid Green in the threads as close to the problem as possible. Give it 48 hours to soak in. The longer you let the soak, the better it'll go. Give the time to drain in application over 24 hours. If the



YANK TIP
"Before a stubborn nut turns you into a hackawed-wild animal, try some patience."
—RICHARD LAFREYRE
OF PLUMBING
RESTORATION
& REPAIR

nut is covered with white or blue deposits, remove what you can with a wire brush. Do this while waiting to choose what to remove.

If a nut won't budge after all these attempts to loosen it, it will have to be cut off with a hacksaw or reciprocating saw. Try making a vertical cut up through the threaded stem and nut. Then crack the nut loose.

—*BARRY SAWYER*

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PROJECT/
21

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Norm's Notebook

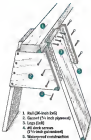


► MASTER CARPENTER NORM ABRAHAM'S TECHNIQUES FOR THE SAWHORSES FEATURED IN TOOLBOX, P. 57

► SAWHORSES

How I Build a Sawhorse

My sawhorses are made with little more than a 2x4 and 2x6 separated by 2x4s. But I incorporate details that result in sturdy, strong and stable legs that stay squared at about 30 degrees. 4x4s inch plywood gussets to keep the legs from twisting. Waterproof construction adhesive and 1 1/2-inch galvanized steel screws at all joints. About the pieces used: Just cut my 2x6 ends at a 30-degree angle and trim both sides of the rail and both ends of each leg. For the gussets, use angled square-cutting knives on each of the angled cuts.



1. 2x4 (4-in. rail)
2. 2x6 (1 1/2-in. plywood)
3. 4x4 (4-in. rail)
4. 4x4 (4-in. rail)
5. 1 1/2-in. galvanized steel screws at all joints

45° = 30-degree cuts



My First Pony

Before I could even begin to school my other built a toy sawhorse for me. It was about 30 inches high and 30 inches long. It had a smooth, flat seat from the full size and the sides for the seat. Then it was even a little shelf under the seat where I could park my feet. I used this sturdy little horse to practice sawing and hammering. And I actually built things like a birdhouse and a model boat before I cut down a 2x4 after all these years. The more I saw, the more I got to play with it.



TIP

When I have to keep a horse from rocking or level out the rails, I'll add some scrap 2x4 blocking under the low legs. It's better than a 2x6 because it's less likely to slip off and it's wide enough to prevent the legs from sinking into soft ground. If I have to use more than one block, I will then together first so they won't slip.



Cut Plywood Safely

Plywood is to be well supported when it's being cut or it will sag and bend the blade, causing the size to dangerously kick back at you. To prevent this, I'll put a 2x4 directly under the cutline before making the cut. If the saw is set up properly, the blade will go just a hair deeper than the plywood's thickness and come out in the stud. This let it sit so shallow you can still use the stud later in work.

PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE; TOOLBOX: GUY LAWRENCE

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SOURCES, PRICES AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRODUCTS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

LANDSCAPING: Made for the Shade

(pp. 27-29)

Our shade is—David Cho of the American Horticultural Society (ashs.org) and A-Z Encyclopedia Garden Plants for help researching the article. AHS.org

Special shade is—Green Thumb of Winchester Nursery and Gardens, LLC, Decatur, IN: 800-633-4828; greenthumbnursery.com

INTERIOR DESIGN: Family Style

(pp. 37-39)

Architect: Healy Rice, Healy M Rice, PC
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Kitchen Designer: KRW Design
Aurora, IL
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Cabinetry: Acorn
Kitchikan, Ontario, Canada: 529-348-5222;
acornkitchens.com; available through
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exoticmarble.com; Backsplash over countertop,
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oven: The Maker, Huntington Beach, CA:
800-458-9226; themaker.com; **Pulls and**
knobs: #14622 and #14625: Studio 41,
Highland Park, IL: 847-265-1200

Studio41garden.com: Sink: Kohler Company,
Kohler, WI: 800-456-4537; kohler.com; **Glass**
and vase: La de da! Merchandising, IL:
847-562-6770; **Spice Jar:** 800-800-8800;
target.com

SALVAGE: Here Thus Vintage Dressing
(pp. 51-52)

Shutter dogs: Ed Cowdson Hardware,
Rochester, New York, NY:
716-249-9624; edcowdson.com
Salvaged shutters and bookcase/luna
cabinet: Black Dot Salvage, Riverside, VA

843-343-5200; blackdotsalvage.com

Our shade is—Joseph Cornblatt of Historic
New England, Boston, MA:
historicnewengland.org

GREEN HOUSE: Natural Selection

(pp. 54-55)

Our shade is—Pat Davis at
ourgreenhouse.com

TOOLS: House of Denim

(pp. 62-65)

"Round Rail": Stud Horse, Holland's
Research and Development, Powers, OR:
541-439-6255; thestudhorse.com
"The Ring Piece": Super Hens America
Ingenuity LLC, Grafton, MA: 413-453-3065;
americaningeniuty.com; **happycherry**

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Legs, San Jose, CA:
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Tools: New Britain, CT:
staleyworks.com; **"Adjustable Height":**
Crowford, MA: 508-341-1434; The Ledge Group,
Massachusetts, MA: 617-666-9702

ledgegroup.com; **"Long Rail":** Stabile Molds,
Fulton, NY: 815-569-3311

stabilemolds.com; **"Soft Saddle":** Portable Saw
Horses #142245: Woodcraft, Pinksterburg,
WY: 800-226-1132; woodcraft.com

HOW IT WORKS: Central Vacuum

(pp. 61-64)

Best Industries, Webster City, Iowa:
522-632-4620; bestvac.com; **Bacon-
McTear LLC, Hartford, WI:** 262-639-6340;
bacon-mctear.com; **M2 Manufacturing**
Central Vacuum Systems, Olathe, MO:
800-947-2235; builtforvacuums.com

WOODWORKER'S HANDS: On**Installing a Pull-Out Truss**

(pp. 75-76)

Fasten: FastenMaster USA, Alpharetta, GA,

800-334-0426;

fastenmaster.com; **Integrative via.com:**
Kohler, WI: 800-456-4537;
via.kohler.com; **Grohe:**
Grohe Inc., Danvers, MA:
800-527-7711;
groheusa.com; **American Standard:**
Folsom, CA:
714-980-3000; americanstandard.us.com

Bravo Faucets (Delta Faucet Co.): Indianapolis:
IN: 877-345-2049; bravo.com; **Herrington:**
Herrington Works, 201 S. 8th St.,
Bellingham, WA: 360-866-1300;
herringtonworks.com; **Roll, Inc., CA:**
800-777-9762; rollinc.com; **Moen:**
800-899-6636; moen.com

OLD HOUSE, NEW SPACE (pp. 80-81)
Architect: Rino Design Architects, Chicago:
IL: 773-628-6550; **Guelin:** Jett Builders
and Remodelers, Hoffman Estates, IL:
847-590-7760; **Landscape:** Phil Roberts
Landscape, Glenview, IL:
830-375-7000; **Muralist:** Sam Parker Mural
Painting, CA: 909-849-8386; **Refrigerator:** GE
Appliances, Louisville, KY: 800-678-2005;
people.com; **Light:** Lamps: Arroyo Craftsman,
Golden Park, CA: 800-400-2775;
arroyocraftsman.com; **Plumbing:** **Fixings**
and fixtures: **Gutchen and Muehr**
bedroom: Kohler Company, Kohler, WI:
800-456-4537; kohler.com; **Granite**
countertops: Richard Merlo, Cincinnati-Alex
Architects, Chicago, IL: 312-236-3542

HIDDEN ASSETS (pp. 85-86)

Wood: Made American Classic Kitchens,
New York, NY: 212-636-9335;
wood.made.com; **Glauber:** Kitchens of New



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3. **OWEN GREAT STUFF** Owen's Great Stuff products offer both professionals and do-it-yourselfers an easy solution to help lower energy costs and make the home more comfortable.

4. **STANER'S STAINABLE WOOD GUIDE** Try Staner's Stainable Wood Guide the first wood stain that accepts stain beautifully for a truly flawless finish. Let the stainholding clear coat do the glue.

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2. **FORRO MARMOLEUM** Marmoleum Deck, natural, healthy, way to clean flooring, available in 18 colors in both panels and squares for an easy, flawless installation.

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4. **SHAW FLOORS** Show off the imagination, style and art and protect the floor you need to create the floor you've always wanted.

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2. **THE HOME DEPOT** The Home Depot is more than a store. It's where you'll find the know-how to get your home improvement projects done right.

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1. **BAYER** Guided by Bayer experts, Bayer Advanced has a complete lineup of time-efficient products to help beautify and protect your lawn, garden and home.

2. **JOHN DEERE** The John Deere Worldwide Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division manufactures and distributes a full line of lawn care products for residential and commercial applications.

3. **TORO** Whether you're mowing, trimming, watering or grading, count on Toro to provide the right tools to help you create your ideal yard.

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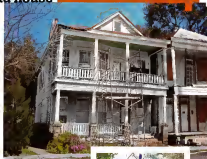
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THE STREET CAR IS LONG GONE, but Savannah's Thomas Square Speedway Historic District is back on track as one of the city's most popular real estate markets. The neighborhood has gone up as steadily in the turn of the century when public transportation gave downtown residents, mostly higher income bankers, doctors, and lawyers, a quick route away from the big city and into a new "inner suburb." Now, after a couple of decades of neglect, its charms are being rediscovered, as well as its geographic link to Fall's Victorian, Queen Anne, and Kalamazoo House. These Southern belles now receive countless gentlemen callers in the form of carpenters, plumbers, and other tradesmen who are keen on seeing and saving the faded beauty back to its

Those looking to get in on the action could do better than to overlook this not-so-gently-used home with double gallery-front porch situated in a nice in-fill lot about 10 minutes from downtown and within walking distance of historic Forsyth Park.

The five-bedroom 6,000-square-foot main house, built around 1900 – it was first occupied by a doctor who maintained offices on the second floor – and transformed in the 1980s from a duplex to a single-family home, though it could just as easily be forced back [there are still blue-tinted linoleum]. It gets downy porches for handsome paneled paddle doors, built-in kitchen cabinets, eight original cypress and elm master pieces, hardwood floors and 33-foot ceilings. Since this is a "folk" Victorian, it contains the occasional architectural discrepancy, such as its downsized patterned wicker windows, which are more hospitable of the Arts and Crafts style.

The house has been occupied for the past quarter century by the same family, which is newsworthy with the Historic Savannah Foundation find someone willing to restore it. The deed will include a covenant to ensure that the new owners begin rehab work within 90 days of closing and complete most of it within two years. The house may qualify for federal tax credits for historic properties and for a state property taxbreak program, which allows owners to pay property taxes in installments for up to eight years. —TIM WAGNER



ABOVE: The double gallery porch is supported by tapered columns and sheltered by rustic, handwooded ceilings. RIGHT: The rear of the house includes a small yard, good for off-street parking or a play area. BELOW LEFT: Stopped porch designed to be a spacious living room. BELOW RIGHT: The first floor porch columns are anchored by sturdy stone block supports.



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